

Expansion Systems

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Master Thesis

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$$1 + \frac{\int_0^x \frac{x_1 \, dx_1}{1 - \frac{\int_0^{x_1} \frac{x_2 \, dx_2}{3 + \frac{\int_0^{x_2} \frac{7 \, x_3 \, dx_3}{5 - \frac{\int_0^{x_3} \frac{221 \, x_4 \, dx_4}{2205 \cdot \text{etc.}}}}}}}}{x_1 \, dx_1}$$

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Abstract

In this thesis, we introduce *expansion systems* as a general framework to describe a large variety of approximation algorithms, such as Taylor approximation, decimal expansion and continued fraction. We consider some basic properties of expansion systems, and also study criteria for convergence. Further, we introduce the notion of isomorphisms between expansion systems. In the appendix, we discuss another class of expansion systems, which we call approximation systems. Many claims of convergence in this appendix, remain to be proven.

Contents

Introduction	2
1 Description of Expansion Systems	5
2 Orders and Convergents	10
3 Convergence of Expansion Systems	14
3.1 Topologies on Expansion Systems	14
3.2 Some Elementary Convergence Theorems	16
3.3 Convergence of Monotonic Expansion Systems	20
4 Isomorphisms between Expansion Systems	27
4.1 Homomorphisms and Isomorphisms	27
4.2 Applications of Isomorphisms	30
Appendix: Approximation Systems	34
Examples of Approximation Systems	34
Further Aspects of Approximation Systems	41

Introduction

The concept of approximation is an important concept throughout the realm of mathematics. Many different approximation algorithms have been developed, which are used in various contexts. But despite the variety of algorithms, there seem to be particular mechanisms which some of these algorithms have in common. For instance, many approximations are based on the existence of a fixed point for a certain contractive mapping, so that under the right conditions, iterated application of this mapping will approximate this fixed point. Much theory has been developed to capture this phenomenon, and its theorems are widely applicable (see for instance [13]).

In this master thesis we will focus on a different approximation mechanism, which also seems to underlie many known approximation algorithms. It goes about as follows: we have an object y , on which we will apply a sequence of mappings. After each of these mappings, our y has changed, and we record the essential information of this result before going to the next mapping (for example we repeatedly differentiate a function, and after each time we record its value in a point x_0). Then, after having recorded these values up to a certain level, we try to reverse process all these mappings, using just the data we have collected so far (for example we repeatedly integrate a function from the point x_0 , using the recorded values in x_0 as the constants of integration). In many examples, this algorithm turns out to give good approximations for the initial object y . The more of the recorded coefficients we involve in our approximation, the more accurate it generally becomes. This observation should motivate further investigation to this general principle, and we will refer to these algorithmic structures as *expansion systems*.

Besides the example of Taylor series, which (as the reader may have figured out) just served to illustrate the underlying mechanism of expansion systems, there are many more approximation algorithms that can be viewed in this perspective. There is the decimal expansion, Fourier series, continued fraction, Engel expansion, Newton's forward difference formula, and so on. We will come across all of these examples as the theory of expansion systems is being unfolded.

In Section 1 of the thesis, a formal description of expansion systems is given, which will serve as the main framework for all later sections. In Section 2, we will discuss some basic features of expansion systems regarding the approximations it provides. As we will see, the objects that arise as approximations will actually have much more meaning in the context of expansion systems, than just being an approximation. In Section 3, we will develop the theory which is essential for investigating the convergence of expansion system. We will also prove some elementary convergence theorems, as well as a convergence result for the class of *monotonic expansion*

systems. The subject of Section 4 is isomorphisms between different expansion systems. The concept of isomorphisms may help us to translate results from one expansion system to another, whenever such an isomorphism can be established.

In the final appendix, we will shed some light on a type of approximations, called *approximation systems*. In a somewhat different setting, these type of approximations have been the subject of the author's bachelor thesis *Approximation Systems* (in Dutch: Benaderingsstelsels)[18], and they are also the subject of the identically named paper[19], coauthored by Prof. Koornwinder. In this thesis, we will reformulate this type of approximations in the context of expansion systems. As of yet, there is still a discrepancy between the results regarding approximation systems that have been establish theoretically, and the results that have been experimentally obtained. For the treatment of the subject in the appendix, I have decided to especially share the more practical results, accepting the lack of foundation to prove them.

The subject of this thesis came into being during work on the article *Approximation Systems*. Prof. Koornwinder asked me to find out whether other types of approximation algorithms could somehow be fitted into the theory of approximation systems, and after much puzzling I decided that this was going to be difficult. However, there were nonetheless some basic principles which the approximation systems shared with other types of algorithms, and it became clear that there is in fact a general framework which all of these algorithms would fit in. When I decided to work out this idea as the subject of my master thesis, it was not quite clear to me yet, how much more I would be able to write down, besides the very definition and a couple of examples. But along the way, it appeared that there was actually quite a lot of theory to explore, and an initial habit of searching for content, soon enough changed into a habit of focusing on just a couple of basic features. I can therefore only apologize for all possible omissions, that probably would better have been included into this thesis. For example, like Prof. Homburg has remarked, it would make sense also to discuss the situation in which the expansions are linear maps. Although some of the examples in this thesis do belong to this category, such as the Taylor expansion and the Fourier series, a general theory for linear expansion systems is not given. And as Prof. Koornwinder suggested, also the theory of fast wavelet transforms could possibly be linked to expansion systems, but this hasn't made it into the final thesis either. Hopefully, future efforts will fill in gaps like these.

Acknowledgments

To begin with, I want to acknowledge Prof. Dijkstra and Prof. van Mill for their help with some topological issues. They have been of great support when I got stuck with a topological problem. Further, I want to acknowledge Prof. Koornwinder. After all, it have been the fruitful conversations with him, that have been the main inspiration for this thesis, and I thank him for the great care with which he has guided me in the last couple of years. Finally, I want to thank my supervisor Prof. Homburg. Besides all his other help, I am very grateful for his willingness and the freedom he has given me, to let me work on something what was actually just a spontaneous idea.

1 Description of Expansion Systems

We consider the following situation: we have a sequence of so called *element spaces* $S = \{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $\mathbb{N} = 0, 1, \dots$, and in each set S_i there is a *neutral element* $\nu_i \in S_i$. For instance, if our S_i are additive spaces, this will often be the zero element. Further we have another sequence of so called *coefficient spaces* $C = \{C_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}$. Between these sets, we have the following collection of injections: $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$, where $P_i: S_i \rightarrow C_i$ and $E_i: S_i \rightarrow S_{i+1}$, mapping the neutral element of S_i to the neutral element of S_{i+1} , i.e.

$$E_i(\nu_i) = \nu_{i+1}. \quad (1.1)$$

Note that P_i and E_i themselves don't need to be injective. In diagram this looks like shown in Figure 1.

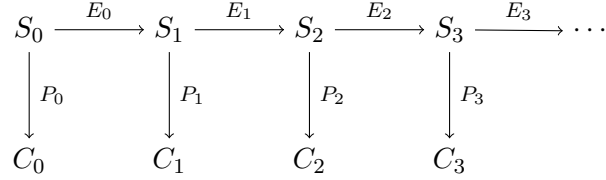


Figure 1: Structure of expansion system

Such a system

$$\Psi = (S, C, F) := (\{S_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}, \{C_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}, \{F_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}})$$

we call an *expansion system*, or ES for short.* Each P_i in our ES will typically function as a projection on some simpler space, such as \mathbb{Z} or \mathbb{C} . The mapping E_i typically maps S_i onto a similar space S_{i+1} , but thereby losing some information which is contained in the value of P_i .

Example 1.1. For $i \in \mathbb{N}$ let $(S_i, \nu_i) = ([0, 1), 0)$, the set of real numbers greater or equal to 0 and smaller than 1, with 0 being the neutral element. Let $C_i = \{0, 1, \dots, 9\}$. Furthermore, let $P_i: S_i \rightarrow C_i$ be the projection onto the first digit after the dot (i.e. $P_i y := \lfloor 10y \rfloor$, where $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor$ denotes the floor function), and let $E_i: S_i \rightarrow S_{i+1}$ be defined as $E_i y := 10y - P_i y$. This expansion satisfies (1.1). Now $F_i := (P_i, E_i)$ is injective, for the equations

$$\lfloor 10y \rfloor = \lfloor 10y' \rfloor, \quad \text{and} \quad 10y - \lfloor 10y \rfloor = 10y' - \lfloor 10y' \rfloor,$$

imply of course that $y = y'$. Hence $\Psi = (S, C, F)$ defines an expansion system.

*Whenever we refer to a sequence of element spaces S , we implicitly assume the existence of a sequence ν_i of neutral elements, even when not mentioned explicitly what these neutral elements are.

Note that in the example above, when we apply E_i to some element $y \in S_i$, we have lost some information about y_i in the value $E_i y$, namely the value of its first digit after the dot. This information is then contained in the value $P_i y$. But despite our loss of information, E_i really is a surjective mapping from S_i to S_{i+1} , which spaces are both equal to $[0, 1)$. This is possible because of the expanding nature of E_i . As this is the typical pattern in most ES's, we will refer to the mappings P_i as our *projections*, and to the mappings E_i as our *expansions*. However, the mappings P_i and E_i do not necessarily have to obey this particular pattern, and the words projections and expansions are therefore merely terminology.

Because all F_i are injective, we also have a sequence of inverses $F_i^{-1}: F_i(C_i \times S_i) \rightarrow S_i$. Now given an $y \in S_0$, we define $y_0 := y$ and $y_{i+1} := E_i y_i$, and furthermore $c_i := P_i y_i$, so that we get $y_i = F_i^{-1}(y_{i+1}, c_i)$. These c_i are called *coefficients*, and the full sequence $\hat{c} := (c_0, c_1, \dots)$ is called the *coefficient code*.

Remark 1.2. For convenience, we will adopt the special notation \hat{E}_i for the accumulative composition of the first i expansions, so that we have $\hat{E}_i y = E_i \cdots E_0 y = y_i$. Likewise, we write \hat{P}_i for the composition of P_i with \hat{E}_i , so that we have $\hat{P}_i y = P_i E_i \cdots E_0 y = c_i$. Also to the $\hat{P}_i: S_0 \rightarrow C_i$, we will refer to as projections, and the Cartesian product of all these projections gives rise to the so called *coefficient map*

$$\hat{P}: S_0 \rightarrow \hat{C}, \quad y \mapsto (c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots),$$

where $\hat{C} := \prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} C_i$ stands for the Cartesian product of all the coefficient spaces. In a certain sense, this map codifies elements of S_0 as a list of coefficients from the spaces C_i , but it does so not necessarily injective.

Having settled down the prerequisites of an ES Ψ , it turns out that under the right conditions our Ψ gives rise to an approximation $y^{[n]}$ for $y \in S$, based on its coefficients $\hat{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots) = \hat{P} y$. This approximation is constructed as follows:

$$y_n^{[n]} := \nu_n \tag{1.2}$$

$$y_i^{[n]} := F_i^{-1}(c_i, y_{i+1}^{[n]}) \quad (i = n-1, n-2, \dots, 0) \tag{1.3}$$

provided that

$$(c_i, y_{i+1}^{[n]}) \in F_i(S_i), \quad \text{for } i = n-1, n-2, \dots, 0. \tag{1.4}$$

Our ultimate n -th order approximation will then be:

$$y^{[n]} := y_0^{[n]} \tag{1.5}$$

The above construction of $y^{[n]}$, leads us to the following definitions:

Definition 1.3. An expansion system Ψ is called *proper* at order n w.r.t. $y \in S_0$ (or equivalently, to the coefficients c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1}), if it satisfies (1.4) throughout the process of constructing $y^{[n]}$. Only when dealing with an ES which is proper at order n , this construction will succeed, and are we allowed to talk about the n -th order approximation of y , also called the n -th *convergent* of y . When Ψ is proper at any order n w.r.t. y , we say Ψ is (completely) proper w.r.t. y . Also, when we say that Ψ is proper without mentioning w.r.t. which element, it is assumed that it is proper w.r.t. any element in S_0 . As this concept will return quite frequently, we will make use of special notation for the set of elements w.r.t. which Ψ is proper:

$$S_0^{(n)} := \{y \in S_0 : \Psi \text{ is proper at order } n \text{ w.r.t. } y\}. \quad (1.6)$$

Likewise, we let $S_0^{(\leq n)}$ and $S_0^{(<\infty)}$ denote the elements in S_0 , w.r.t. which Ψ is proper up to and including order n , respectively completely proper.

In situations where we are dealing with multiple ES's at the same time, confusion might arise about relative to which ES we are determining the approximating $y^{[n]}$. In that case we will write $y^{[\Psi, n]}$ instead, to stress the ES we are working with.

We will end this section with a simple proposition about properness, and give some applications to illustrate its use.

Proposition 1.4. *Suppose Ψ is such that all $F_i: S_i \rightarrow S_{i+1} \times C_i$ are bijective. Then Ψ is proper.*

Proof. We have for $i = n, n-1, \dots, 1$ that, given $y_i^{[n]} \in S_i$ and $c_{i-1} \in C_{i-1}$, the surjectivity of F_{i-1} implies $(c_{i-1}, y_i^{[n]}) \in F_{i-1}(S_{i-1})$. Hence (1.4) is always satisfied. \square

Note that we could just as well have required F_i to be surjective, as we already have that it is injective by definition of an ES. This proposition implies for instance properness of the ES Ψ in Example 1.1. To see this, let's consider this ES once more here.

Example 1.5 (Decimal Expansion). Let Ψ be as in Example 1.1. It is proper by Proposition 1.4, as we have that each F_i is bijective, and its inverse is given by:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, y) = \frac{c + y}{10}.$$

So if the coefficients of some $y \in S_0$ are c_0, c_1, \dots , then we get as n -th order

approximation:

$$\begin{aligned}
y_n^{[n]} &= 0 \\
y_{n-1}^{[n]} &= \frac{c_{n-1}}{10} \\
y_{n-2}^{[n]} &= \frac{c_{n-2}}{10} + \frac{c_{n-1}}{100} \\
&\dots \\
y_0^{[n]} &= \frac{c_0}{10} + \frac{c_1}{100} + \dots + \frac{c_{n-1}}{10^{n-1}}.
\end{aligned}$$

In other words, the n -th order approximation coincides with the decimal number:

$$y^{[n]} = 0.c_0c_1c_2\dots c_{n-1}$$

It is good to realize that it really requires a proof that this particular sequence of decimal approximations is not only convergent, but that the number it converges to is also the number we used as input of the algorithm, so that indeed we may suggestively write:

$$y = 0.c_0c_1c_2c_3\dots$$

Although an ad hoc proof of this wouldn't be that difficult to provide, we will postpone this to Theorem 3.22, where a more general result will be proven. Further it should be remarked that, although the space S_0 is restricted to the set of non-negative numbers smaller than 1, we can quite easily adapt the ES so that it can take bigger numbers as input. If we want S_0 to be $\mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$, we just put $P_0 y = \lceil \log_{10} y \rceil$ for non-zero y , and $E_0 y = y/10^{P_0(y)}$ for non-zero y , and $F_0(0) = (0, 0)$ for the case $y = 0$. This extends the ES to non-negative numbers of arbitrary size.

Example 1.6 (Continued Fraction). Just as in Example 1.1, we let $(S_i, \nu_i) = ([0, 1), 0)$, but now we let $C_i = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1} \cup \{\infty\}$. Furthermore, let P_i be given by:

$$P_i y = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } y = 0 \\ \lfloor 1/y \rfloor, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and E_i be given by

$$E_i y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ 1/y - P_i y & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

This satisfies Equation 1.1, and $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is a bijection, for which we have as inverse:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } c = \infty \\ \frac{1}{c+y} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By Proposition 1.4, Ψ is proper and for its n -th approximation we find:

$$\begin{aligned}
y_n^{[n]} &= 0 \\
y_{n-1}^{[n]} &= \frac{1}{c_{n-1}} \\
y_{n-2}^{[n]} &= \frac{1}{c_{n-2} + \frac{1}{c_{n-1}}} \\
&\dots \\
y_0^{[n]} &= \frac{1}{c_0 + \frac{1}{c_1 + \frac{1}{\dots + \frac{1}{c_{n-1}}}}}
\end{aligned}$$

It turns out that these rational approximations converge to the initial element y as n goes to infinity (cf. [5, §1.6]), which justifies the concise notation:

$$y = c_0 + \frac{1}{c_1 + \frac{1}{c_2 + \frac{1}{c_3 + \dots}}} \tag{1.7}$$

Just as for the decimal expansion, we will prove later on in this thesis that this is indeed valid for all $y \in S_0$.

2 Orders and Convergents

In the previous section, we have seen how an expansion system codifies its elements in a sequence of coefficients. We have also discussed how these coefficients on its turn can give rise to an approximation. In this section, we will see that the approximations are characterized by the property that they are eventually mapped by the expansion sequence E to a neutral element $\nu_n \in S_n$. The values of its first n coefficients will coincide with the element it approximates. We will also see that the existence of elements with these properties, is at the same time a guarantee of properness. Throughout all the propositions in this section, we will assume we are given some expansion system Ψ , and we again adopt the notation of the introduction for all of its components.

Definition 2.1. We call $y \in S_0$ an element of *finite order*, if for certain $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $y_n = \nu_n$. The smallest such n , we call the order of y . If y is not of finite order, we say it is of *infinite order*. As with the property of properness, we will use special notations $S_0^{[n]}$, $S_0^{[\leq n]}$, $S_0^{[< \infty]}$, and $S_0^{[\infty]}$ to denote the elements in S_0 respectively of order n , order less than or equal n , finite order, and infinite order.

Remark 2.2. By 1.1, the order of an element y could also be characterized by saying: y has order n , iff $y_m = \nu_m$ for all $m \geq n$. This is equivalent to the definition above.

Theorem 2.3. We have $y \in S_0^{(n)}$, iff there is an element $y' \in S_0^{[n]}$, having the same coefficients up to and including order $n - 1$, i.e. $\hat{P}_i y' = \hat{P}_i y = c_i$ for $i \leq n - 1$. If this is the case, then y' is unique and equals $y^{[n]}$.[†]

Proof. Proof of the forward implication: one verifies that it follows directly from the construction of $y^{[n]}$ that $E_i y_i^{[n]} = y_{i+1}^{[n]}$, and so we have for the composition \hat{E}_i of expansions:

$$(y^{[n]})_i = \hat{E}_i y^{[n]} = E_i \cdots E_0 y_0^{[n]} = y_i^{[n]} \quad (2.1)$$

and thus in particular $(y^{[n]})_n = y_n^{[n]} = \nu_n$, which means $y^{[n]} \in S_0^{[n]}$. Moreover, (2.1) gives us that:

$$\hat{P}_i y^{[n]} = P_i (y^{[n]})_i = P_i y_i^{[n]} = P_i F_i^{-1}(y_{i+1}^{[n]}, c_i) = c_i = \hat{P}_i y.$$

Hence $y^{[n]}$ satisfies the requirements for our y' .

Now we prove the backward implication. We just carry out the construction of $y^{[n]}$, and let $y_n^{[n]} = \nu_n$. Because we know that y'_{n-1} is an element in S_{n-1}

[†]Throughout this thesis, primes are only used to distinguish symbols (e.g. y and y'), and do never have the meaning of differentiation.

for which $F_{n-1} y'_{n-1} = (\nu_n, c_{n-1})$, it follows that $y_{n-1}^{[n]} = F_i^{-1}(y_n^{[n]}, c_{n-1})$ is well defined, and equals y'_{n-1} . The same observation now applies to $F_{n-1} y'_{n-2} = (y'_{n-1}, c_{n-2})$, so that $y_{n-2}^{[n]} = y'_{n-2}$. Continuing this process, we get at the last step that $y_0^{[n]} = y^{[n]}$ is well defined and equals $y'_0 = y'$. Because of the arbitrariness of y' , and the fact that $y_0^{[n]}$ is uniquely determined by its construction, the additional remark follows that this y' is unique. \square

Corollary 2.4. *Given $y \in S_0^{[n]}$, we have that $y \in S_0^{(\geq n)}$, and $y^{[m]} = y$ for all $m \geq n$.*

Proof. This follows from the observation that by Remark 2.2 $y_m = \nu_m$ for all $m \geq n$. So for each order $m \geq n$, y itself serves as the looked after element z , and so we have $y^{[m]} = y$. \square

Remark 2.5. Theorem 2.3 not only provides another formulation for properness, it also characterizes the n -th convergent $y^{[n]}$ of an element y as the unique n -th order element z in S_0 , having the same coefficients as y up to and including order $n - 1$. The corollary on its turn, implies that

$$S_0^{[n]} = \{y^{[n]} : y \in S_0^{(n)}\}.$$

In particular we have that $S_0^{[n]} \subset S_0^{(\geq n)}$.

We can apply Theorem 2.3 to the following example of an expansion system:

Example 2.6. Taylor Series

Let each S_i be the space of holomorphic functions on some open neighborhood $U \subset \mathbb{C}$ of a point $x_0 \in \mathbb{C}$, and let $C_i = \mathbb{C}$ and ν_i the zero function. Furthermore, given a function $y(x) \in S_i$, let $P_i y = y(x_0)$ and

$$E_i y(x) = \frac{y(x) - P_i y}{x - x_0},$$

the value in x_0 being defined by its limit. One verifies that for given $y(x) = c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + \dots$, we have $\hat{P}_i y = c_i$. We have that $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ satisfies 1.1, and furthermore $\Psi = (S, C, F)$ is proper, for given an order n , we have that $z = c_0 + c_1(x - x_0) + \dots + c_{n-1}(x - x_0)^{n-1}$ satisfies Theorem 2.3. (We could also have invoked Proposition 1.4, noting that every holomorphic function has an integral with prescribed value in the point x_0 .) In this ES, the elements of order n are just the polynomials of order $n - 1$ (the zero polynomial in case $n = 0$). The elements of infinite order are exactly all non-polynomial holomorphic functions. The n -th order approximation coincides with the $n - 1$ -th Taylor approximation at the point x_0 .

It is important to realize that if an ES Ψ is proper w.r.t. y at order n , this doesn't necessarily mean that Ψ is also proper w.r.t. y at orders below n , nor that it is proper at orders above n . We will use a variation on Example 2.6 as a counterexample.

Example 2.7. Again we consider the expansion system Ψ as given in Example 2.6, but this time we let $x_0 = 0$ and U be the closed interval $[0, 1]$. Further, we let ν_i, C_i, P_i and E_i just be as in Example 2.6, but we restrict each S_i only to those elements y_i , such that $\|y_j\| \leq 1$ for all $j \geq i$, i.e. y_i remains in absolute value ≤ 1 after composition with arbitrarily many expansion E_j , $j = i, i+1, \dots$. In particular, the elements in S_i itself are of absolute value ≤ 1 . Note that by this condition, we still have $E_i(S_i) \subset S_{i+1}$. Now consider the polynomial $y = \frac{1}{2} + x - x^2 + x^3 - x^4$. We can calculate that:

$$\begin{aligned}\|y_0\| &= \left\| \frac{1}{2} + x - x^2 + x^3 - x^4 \right\| \approx 0.60583 < 1 \\ \|y_1\| &= \|1 - x + x^2 - x^3\| = 1 \\ \|y_2\| &= \|-1 + x - x^2\| = 1 \\ \|y_3\| &= \|1 - x\| = 1 \\ \|y_4\| &= \|-1\| = 1 \\ \|y_5\| &= \|y_6\| = \dots = \|0\| = 0.\end{aligned}$$

All these y_i have absolute value ≤ 1 on the interval $[0, 1]$, and so $y_i \in S_i$. It turns out that $y \in S_0^{(3)}$, as we have for $z = \frac{1}{2} + x - x^2$:

$$\begin{aligned}\|z_0\| &= \left\| \frac{1}{2} + x - x^2 \right\| = \frac{3}{4} < 1 \\ \|z_1\| &= \|1 - x\| = 1 \\ \|z_2\| &= \|-1\| = 1 \\ \|z_3\| &= \|z_4\| = \dots = \|0\| = 0.\end{aligned}$$

So z is an element in $S_0^{[3]}$, and it satisfies Theorem 2.3, by which we may conclude properness at order 3 w.r.t. y . But for order $n = 2$, our only candidate is $z = \frac{1}{2} + x$, but $\|\frac{1}{2} + x\| = 1\frac{1}{2} > 1$, so there can be no such z in S_0 . Likewise, for order $n = 4$, we have $\frac{1}{2} + x - x^2 + x^3$ as only candidate, but $\|\frac{1}{2} + x - x^2 + x^3\| = 1\frac{1}{2} > 1$, so this z does not lie in S_0 either. Hence Ψ is proper w.r.t. y at order 3, but not at order 2 and 4.

Proposition 2.8. Suppose $y \in S_0^{(n)}$, and $y' \in S_0$ has the same first n coefficients as y , i.e. $\hat{P}_i y = \hat{P}_i y'$ for $0 \leq i \leq n-1$. Then also $y' \in S_0^{(n)}$, and we have $y^{[n]} = y'^{[n]}$.

Proof. By Theorem 2.3 we conclude that there is an element $y^{[n]} \in S_0^{[n]}$ with the same first n coefficients as y . So by assumption, $y^{[n]}$ also has the same

first n coefficients as y' . Therefore, again by Theorem 2.3, we have that $y' \in S_0^{(n)}$, and $y^{[n]} = y'^{[n]}$. \square

Corollary 2.9. *Suppose for certain n and $m \leq n$ we have $y \in S_0^{(n)} \cap S_0^{(m)}$, i.e. Ψ is proper w.r.t. y both at order n and m . Then also $y^{[n]} \in S_0^{(n)} \cap S_0^{(m)}$, and we have $(y^{[n]})^{[m]} = y^{[m]}$, i.e. the m -th order convergent of $y^{[n]}$ equals the m -th order convergent of y itself. In particular $(y^{[n]})^{[n]} = y^{[n]}$.*

Proof. By Theorem 2.3, y and $y^{[n]}$ have equal coefficients up to and including order $n - 1$. Then certainly y and $y^{[n]}$ have equal coefficients up to and including order $m - 1$. Hence Proposition 2.8 applies, which implies that $y^{[n]} \in S_0^{(m)}$, and $(y^{[n]})^{[m]} = y^{[m]}$. \square

3 Convergence of Expansion Systems

When we are given an ES Ψ with a topological space S_0 , it would be nice if $y^{[n]}$ becomes a better approximation of y as n increases, so that we can define $y^{[\infty]} := \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} y^{[n]} = y$. However, this may not always be the case, and the following definition provides names for the situations that may arise:

Definition 3.1. Suppose Ψ is proper with respect to y in the topological space S_0 . We then call Ψ *convergent* with respect to y , if $y^{[n]}$ converges to some element in S_0 , for which we will use the notation $y^{[\infty]}$. We say Ψ is *accurate* w.r.t. y , if it is not only convergent with some limit $y^{[\infty]}$, but moreover $y^{[\infty]}$ equals y . We say Ψ is *divergent* with respect to y , if the sequence of convergents $y^{[n]}$ does not converge at all. Furthermore, we simply say Ψ is convergent or accurate, if it has this respective property with respect to all of its elements.

Remark 3.2. Note that by Corollary 2.4, an ES is always accurate w.r.t. its elements of finite order, even if S_0 is given the discrete topology.

In this section we will investigate some of the conditions under which Ψ is (accurately) convergent. As convergence depends on the topology which the element spaces are endowed with, it is important to pay attention to the topological aspects of ES's. As it will turn out, in many cases the approximation will converge in one topology, but not in the other. We will therefore first develop a framework which will help us in investigating these phenomena.

3.1 Topologies on Expansion Systems

Definition 3.3. Let $f : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map between X and Y , where Y is given the topology \mathcal{Y} . Then we define the *generated topology* $f^{-1}(\mathcal{Y})$, to be the topology on X generated by the map f , meaning it is generated by the sets $f^{-1}(U)$, where U is open in \mathcal{Y} (cf. [8, 1.4.8]).

More specific, let \mathcal{C} be a topology on the space \hat{C} of coefficient sequences. We then define $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ to be the topology on S_0 , generated by the sets $\hat{P}^{-1}(U)$ with U open in \mathcal{C} , and call this the *generated topology*. Usually each space C_i already has its own topology \mathcal{C}_i , and unless otherwise specified, we will assume that \mathcal{C} is the product topology with respect to these topologies. In that case, we call the generated topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ the *weak topology* generated by the collection of projections \hat{P}_i to the spaces (C_i, \mathcal{C}_i) (cf. [1, 3.16]). In the context of expansion systems, the weak topology on S_0 which is generated by the discrete topologies on C_i turns out to be an important topology. We will call this topology on S_0 the *weakly discrete topology*, and denote it by $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$, where \mathcal{D}^* on its turn denotes the discrete product topology on \hat{C} . The discrete topology on \hat{C} will be written as just \mathcal{D} .

Remark 3.4. The generated topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ can also be defined as the weakest topology such that $\hat{P}: S_0 \rightarrow \hat{C}$ is continuous. In particular, the weak topology is the weakest topology such that all $\hat{P}_i: S_0 \rightarrow C_i$ are continuous (this follows from the fact that \hat{P} is continuous iff each P_i is continuous, see [16, 19.6]). This topology is therefore generated by sets of the form $P_i^{-1}(U_i)$, where $i \in \mathbb{N}$, and U_i is open in C_i . This implies that a sequence $y^{[n]}$ in S_0 converges to y in the weak topology, iff for each $i \in \mathbb{N}$: $\hat{P}_i y^{[n]}$ converges to $\hat{P}_i y$ in the topology \mathcal{C}_i of C_i . Equivalently, $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in the weak topology, iff $\hat{P} y^{[n]}$ converges to $\hat{P} y$ in the product topology \mathcal{C} . The weakly discrete topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$ is likewise generated by the sets $\hat{P}_i^{-1}(c_i)$, where $i \in \mathbb{N}$ and c_i runs through all the points in C_i . In particular, $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$, iff for each $i \in \mathbb{N}$: $\hat{P}_i y^{[n]}$ equals $\hat{P}_i y$ for n large enough. The weakly discrete topology is the strongest one among all possible weak topologies generated by the \hat{P}_i , so given an arbitrary weak topology, the weakly discrete topology is necessarily stronger or equal to it. Although it is useful to use different names for the generated topology and the weak topology, we should keep in mind that in a strict sense there is no essential distinction between these two types of topology, because a weak topology can be viewed as the topology generated by the product map to the product topology, and a generated topology can be viewed as a weak topology for just one map.

Lemma 3.5. *Consider an ES Ψ where \mathcal{B}_i ($i \in \mathbb{N}$) are bases for the topologies \mathcal{C}_i of C_i . Then the product topology \mathcal{C} on \hat{C} has a basis of the form:*

$$\pi_n^{-1}(B_0, \dots, B_{n-1}) = B_0 \times \dots \times B_{n-1} \times C_n \times C_{n+1} \times \dots, \quad (3.1)$$

where $B_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$ and $\pi_n: \hat{C} \rightarrow \prod_{i < n} C_i$ is the projection on the first n coordinates. The weak topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ on S_0 has as a basis:

$$\hat{P}^{-1}(B_0, \dots, B_{n-1}) := \bigcap_{i=0}^{n-1} \hat{P}_i^{-1}(B_i), \quad (3.2)$$

where $B_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$. In particular, we have that \mathcal{D}^* has a basis of the form:

$$\pi_n^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}) = \{c_0\} \times \dots \times \{c_{n-1}\} \times C_n \times C_{n+1} \times \dots, \quad (3.3)$$

and $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$ has a basis:

$$\hat{P}^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_{n-1}) = \bigcap_{i=0}^{n-1} \hat{P}_i^{-1}(c_i), \quad (3.4)$$

where each c_i is a point in C_i .

Proof. We recall that the product topology \mathcal{C} is generated by all sets of the form $\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} V_i$, where for only finitely many $i \in \mathbb{N}$ we have $C_i \neq V_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$ (see

for instance [16, Thm. 19.2] [8, 2.3.1]). Given such a set $\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} V_i$, we may assume that $V_i = C_i$ for $i \geq n$. Now let $\hat{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots) \in \prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} V_i$. For each $i < n$ we pick a basis element B_i of \mathcal{B}_i , such that $c_i \in B_i \subset V_i$ (when $V_i = C_i$, any B_i containing c_i will suffice, and when $V_i \neq C_i$, we can just set $B_i = V_i$). Now $\pi_n^{-1}(B_0, \dots, B_{n-1})$ is an open set containing \hat{c} , and which lies within the set $\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} V_i$. By the arbitrariness of $\prod_{i \in \mathbb{N}} V_i$ and \hat{c} , this proves that (3.1) defines indeed a basis for \mathcal{C} . Equation (3.2) follows from the observation that if \mathcal{B} is a basis of \mathcal{C} , then $\{\hat{P}^{-1}(B) : B \in \mathcal{B}\}$ serves as a basis for $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$. Equation (3.3) and (3.4) are now special cases of respectively (3.1) and (3.2), where we note that the collection of all singletons forms a basis for the discrete topology. \square

3.2 Some Elementary Convergence Theorems

Theorem 3.6. *Given $y \in S_0^{(<\infty)}$, we have that $\hat{P}y^{[m]}$ converges to $\hat{P}y$ in the discrete product topology \mathcal{D}^* . Further more, $y^{[m]}$ converges to the initial element $y \in S_0$ in the weakly discrete topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$.*

Proof. Let V be a neighborhood of $\hat{P}y$ in the topology \mathcal{D}^* . By Lemma 3.5, without loss of generality we may assume that V is an element of the form $\pi_n^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_{n-1})$. By Remark 2.5, we have that $\hat{P}_i y^{[m]} = \hat{P}_i y = c_i$ for all $i < m$, and so in particular for all $i < n$, when $m \geq n$. Hence $\hat{P}y^{[m]} \in V$ for $m \geq n$, which proves by arbitrariness of V that $\hat{P}y^{[m]}$ converges to $\hat{P}y$. The second claim follows by Remark 3.4. \square

Convergence in the weakly discrete topology turns out to be useful for our understanding of expansion systems, but its direct implications for the convergence of $y^{[n]}$ in other topologies are nonetheless limited. The following example will demonstrate this.

Example 3.7 (Fourier Series). Let S_i be the space of complex integrable functions on $[0, 2\pi]$, such that $f(0) = f(2\pi)$. For C_i we take the set \mathbb{C}^2 . Now we define

$$P_i y := \left(\int_0^{2\pi} e^{i\iota t} y(t) dt, \int_0^{2\pi} e^{-i\iota t} y(t) dt \right) = (c_{-i}, c_{+i}),$$

where $\iota := \sqrt{-1}$. Furthermore, we set

$$E_i y(x) := y(x) - c_{-i} e^{-i\iota x} - c_{+i} e^{i\iota x}.$$

One verifies that $\hat{P}_i y = (c_{-i}, c_{+i})$ corresponds with the $-i$ -th and $+i$ -th Fourier coefficient of y . As the $n-1$ -th order Fourier approximation $y'_n := c_{-(n-1)} e^{-(n-1)\iota x} + \dots + c_{n-1} e^{(n-1)\iota x}$ is clearly an element of S_0 , and we have that $\hat{E}_n(y'_n) = 0 = \nu_n$, it follows by Theorem 2.3 that $y^{[n]}$ equals the $n-1$ -th order Fourier approximation.

Here, Theorem 3.6 does not guarantee that $y^{[n]}$ will converge in other topologies than the weakly discrete topology. Indeed, in the example of Fourier approximation, a function may have well-defined Fourier coefficients, so that $y^{[n]}$ converges in the weakly discrete topology, while its Fourier series diverges in the topology of pointwise convergence (cf. [22, Ch. 3, §2.2]). In fact, the weakly discrete topology is in this ES not even weaker than pointwise convergence, but just incomparable. For if we take the sequence

$$f_n: [0, 2\pi] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad f_n(x) = 1/n,$$

it clearly converges pointwise, but its zeroth Fourier coefficient does not converge in the discrete topology. However, given a topology we have in mind for S_0 , it is often possible to turn the ES into a convergent one, simply by restricting the space S_0 to a smaller space. For example, in the case of Fourier approximation, in order to get pointwise convergence it suffices to restrict S_0 to differentiable functions (see [22, Ch. 3, §2.1]).

Another important thing to notice, is the following. Theorem 3.6 tells us that $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in the weakly discrete topology. But, when we alter the values of the function y on a set with Lebesgue measure 0, then this will not have any effect on the Fourier coefficients c_i , and therefore also the convergents $y^{[n]}$ will not get altered. But according to Theorem 3.6, $y^{[n]}$ should also be accurately convergent towards the altered y in the weakly discrete topology. This means that $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D}^*)$ is not Hausdorff, and $y^{[n]}$ converges to multiple different elements at the same time. It turns out that the property described in the following definition, is characteristic for the weakly discrete topology to be Hausdorff.

Definition 3.8. An ES Ψ is called *separating*, if the map $\hat{P}: S_0 \rightarrow \hat{C}$ is injective. In other words, Ψ is called separating, if the family of projections \hat{P}_i separates points in S_0 , i.e. for $y, y' \in S_0$ and $y \neq y'$, we have $\hat{P}_i y \neq \hat{P}_i y'$ for some $i \in \mathbb{N}$.

So if Ψ is a separating ES, the elements in S_0 can be uniquely codified as a list of coefficients $(c_0, c_1, \dots) \in C$.

Proposition 3.9. Let \mathcal{C} be a Hausdorff topology on \hat{C} , and let the element space S_0 be endowed with the generated topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$. Then S_0 is Hausdorff iff Ψ is separating.

Proof. If Ψ is separating, then the map $\hat{P}: S_0 \rightarrow \hat{C}$ is a injective continuous map into a Hausdorff space, which implies that S_0 is Hausdorff. On the other hand, if Ψ is not separating, then we have $\hat{c} = \hat{P} y = \hat{P} y' \in C$ for certain $y, y' \in S_0, y \neq y'$. Now if V_y and $V_{y'}$ are two neighborhoods of y and y' in S_0 , we may w.l.o.g. assume that $V_y = \hat{P}^{-1}(U_y)$ and $V_{y'} = \hat{P}^{-1}(U_{y'})$ for some open neighborhoods U_y and $U_{y'}$ in \hat{C} . Then $\hat{c} \in U_y \cap U_{y'}$, and so $\hat{P}^{-1}(\hat{c}) \in V_y \cap V_{y'}$, which shows that any two neighborhoods of y and y' cannot be disjoint. \square

Theorem 3.10. *Suppose Ψ is a separating ES, such that S_0 is a topological space and all C_i are topological Hausdorff spaces. Moreover, suppose Ψ is convergent w.r.t $y \in S_0$. If \hat{P} is continuous at $y^{[\infty]}$ in the weak topology, then $y = y^{[\infty]}$, which means Ψ is accurate w.r.t. y . In particular, if Ψ is a convergent ES and \hat{P} is continuous on S_0 , then Ψ is accurate.*

Proof. If \hat{P} is continuous at $y^{[\infty]}$, we have that $\hat{P}y^{[n]}$ converges to $\hat{P}y^{[\infty]}$, and thus by Remark 3.4, $y^{[n]}$ converges to $y^{[\infty]}$ in the weak topology. On the other hand $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in the weakly discrete topology by Theorem 3.6, and thus also in the weak topology. As S_0 is Hausdorff in the weak topology by Proposition 3.9, we must have that $y = y^{[\infty]}$. \square

Remark 3.11. Note that in the above theorem, for \hat{P} to be continuous at an element $y^{[\infty]}$, it is sufficient if all the expansions $E_i: S_i \rightarrow S_{i+1}$ and all the projections $P_i: S_i \rightarrow C_i$ are continuous at $y_i^{[\infty]}$, as each \hat{P}_i is composed from these maps. Also note that the theorem does not state that $y^{[n]}$ converges to y . It only says that if the sequence converges, and \hat{P} is continuous at its limit, then this limit can only be y .

Example 3.12 (Convergence of Fourier Series). We demonstrate how Theorem 3.10 can be applied to obtain accurateness of particular Fourier approximations. Consider the ES Ψ from Example 3.7, except that we let the S_i consist of only continuous functions, with the topology of uniform convergence. The projections \hat{P}_i are then continuous on S_0 , as we have the estimation:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{P}_i y - \hat{P}_i y' &= \hat{P}_i(y - y') = \int_0^{2\pi} (y(t) - y'(t))e^{iut} dt \\ &\leq \int_0^{2\pi} |y(t) - y'(t)| dt \leq 2\pi \|y - y'\|. \end{aligned}$$

Using the property that Fourier coefficients are unique for continuous functions (cf. [22, Cor. 2.2]), we know that Ψ is also separating. Now suppose $y \in S_0$ has absolutely convergent Fourier coefficients c_i , i.e.

$$\sum_{i=-\infty}^{\infty} |c_i| < \infty.$$

Then one easily verifies that the series:

$$y^{[n]}(x) = \sum_{k=-n+1}^{n-1} c_k e^{kix}$$

converges uniformly on $[0, 2\pi]$. Hence by Theorem 3.10, the approximations $y^{[n]}$ will converge to the initial element y .

Lemma 3.13. *Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping, and let \mathcal{X} be the topology on X . Then the following statements are equivalent:*

- I \mathcal{X} is weaker or equal to the generated topology $f^{-1}(\mathcal{D})$, where \mathcal{D} is the discrete topology on Y .*
- II Every open set U of \mathcal{X} can be written as $f^{-1}(V)$, where V is a subset of Y .*
- III $f(p) = f(p')$ implies that p and p' are topologically indistinguishable in (X, \mathcal{X}) , i.e. every open set which contains one of these two elements, also contains the other.*

Proof. The equivalency between I and II is straightforward. So let's consider II implies III. Then, if $f(p) = f(p')$, and we have a open neighborhood U containing p , it follows that $U = f^{-1}(V)$ for some $V \subset Y$. But then $f(p) \in V$, so that $p' \in f^{-1}(f(p)) \subset f^{-1}(V) = U$. By symmetry it follows that p and p' are indistinguishable.

Now we prove III implies II. Now let U be an open set in X , and consider $V := f(U)$. If $p \in f^{-1}(V)$, then $f(p) = f(p')$ for some $p' \in U$, and so p and p' are topologically indistinguishable. Hence, we must have that $p \in U$ as well, which proves that $U \subset f^{-1}(V) \subset U$. So U can indeed be written as $f^{-1}(V)$, with $V \subset Y$. \square

This lemma, together with the following definition, allows us to formulate another convergence theorem.

Definition 3.14. Let $f: X \rightarrow Y$ be a map between topological spaces. We call such a map *closed at a point $y \in Y$* , if for every open neighborhood U of the set $f^{-1}(y)$, there is an open neighborhood V of y , such that $f^{-1}(V) \subset U$ (cf. [8, 4.5.13]).

Remark 3.15. One can prove that a function $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is closed, iff f is closed at any point in Y according to the definition above (see for instance [8, 1.4.13]).

Theorem 3.16. *Let Ψ be a proper ES, and let \hat{C} be endowed with the discrete product topology \mathcal{D}^* . Assume S_0 has a topology which is weaker or equal to $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{D})$. Then Ψ is accurate w.r.t. y , if \hat{P} is closed at the point $\hat{c} = \hat{P}(y) \in C$.*

Proof. Let U be a neighborhood of y . By Lemma 3.13 we have that U is also a neighborhood of $\hat{P}^{-1}(c)$. So by assumption, there is an open set $V \subset C$, such that $\hat{P}^{-1}(V) \subset U$, and by Lemma 3.5 we may assume this V is of the form $\pi_n^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_{n-1})$, where $c_i = \hat{P}_i y$. As $\hat{P}_i y^{[m]} = c_i$ for $i < m$, we have that $y^{[m]} \in \hat{P}^{-1}(V) \subset U$ for all $m \geq n$, which proves convergence to y . \square

Corollary 3.17. *Let Ψ be a proper ES, and let \hat{C} be endowed with the discrete product topology \mathcal{D}^* . Then Ψ is accurate, if \hat{P} is a closed map.*

Proof. This follows immediately from Remark 3.15. \square

3.3 Convergence of Monotonic Expansion Systems

In this subsection, we will define the so called *monotonic expansion systems*. This generalizes many instances of expansion systems, in which the element spaces are linearly ordered sets. The results we obtain for monotonic ES's can thus be applied to all the different instances of monotonic ES's.

Before we come to the definition of monotonic expansion systems, we will first briefly go through some definitions related to orders on a set. We call a function $f : X \rightarrow Y$ between linearly ordered sets (X, \geq) and (Y, \geq) *monotonic*, if f is either strictly increasing or strictly decreasing.[‡] Further, with the *dictionary order* on a (possibly infinite) Cartesian product $X = X_0 \times X_1 \times X_2 \times \dots$, we mean the order such that $(x_0, x_1, x_2, \dots) < (x'_0, x'_1, x'_2, \dots)$, iff at the first entry k on which the two sequences differ, we have that $x_k < x'_k$ (cf. [16, Ch.1, §3]). The *order topology* on an linearly ordered space X , can be defined as the topology generated by the subbasis of *open rays* $X_{>x'}$ and $X_{<x''}$, with $x', x'' \in X$. In particular this topology has as a basis the collection of *open intervals* $X_{x' < \cdot < x''}$ with $x', x'' \in X$, together with the sets $X_{\underline{x} \leq \cdot < x''}$ and $X_{x' < \cdot \leq \bar{x}}$ in case X contains a minimum element \underline{x} or a maximum element \bar{x} (cf. [16, Ch.2, §14], [1, Ch. 1, §2.1]).[§] A subset U of an ordered set X is said to be *densely ordered*, if for any two different elements $x, x' \in X$ there lies an element $u \in U$ in between.

Definition 3.18. Suppose we have an expansion system Ψ , for which the sequences S and C both consist of only linearly ordered sets. Then, if each $F_i : S_i \rightarrow C_i \times S_{i+1}$ is monotonic when $C_i \times S_{i+1}$ is given the dictionary order, we call Ψ a monotonic expansion system. More concrete, this condition on F_i means that either for all elements $y < y'$ in S_i , we have that:

$$P_i y \leq P_i y' \quad \text{and} \quad (3.5)$$

$$E_i y < E_i y' \quad \text{whenever } P_i y = P_i y'. \quad (3.6)$$

or for all elements $y < y'$ we have that:

$$P_i y \geq P_i y' \quad \text{and} \quad (3.7)$$

$$E_i y > E_i y' \quad \text{whenever } P_i y = P_i y'. \quad (3.8)$$

If all F_i are strictly increasing (i.e. we have (3.5) and (3.6)), we call Ψ a *strictly increasing expansion system*.

[‡]This meaning of the word monotonic might differ from those in other sources, where it could merely stand for strictly increasing or non-decreasing.

[§]To be fully correct, we should remark that a basis must also contain the set $X_{\underline{x} \leq \cdot \leq \bar{x}}$, in the rare case that X only contains the single point $\underline{x} = \bar{x}$.

Example 3.19. The decimal expansion (Example 1.5), is a strictly increasing ES. One easily verifies that (3.5) and (3.6) both hold. The continued fraction (Example 1.6) is not a strictly increasing ES, but it is a monotonic ES, for we have that (3.7) and (3.8) holds for all $i \in \mathbb{N}$, where we should remark that ∞ is to be interpreted as the largest element in C_i .

From the definition of a strictly increasing ES, we almost immediately obtain the following property:

Proposition 3.20. *Let Ψ be strictly increasing expansion system, and let \hat{C} be given the dictionary order. Then $\hat{P} : S_0 \rightarrow \hat{C}$ is a non-decreasing map.*

Proof. Suppose we have $\hat{P}y > \hat{P}y'$ for certain $y < y'$. Then there must be a $k \geq 0$, such that $P_i y = P_i y'$ for $i < k$, and $P_k y > P_k y'$. But this contradicts (3.5) for $i = k$, from which we conclude that \hat{P} is non-decreasing. \square

This simple proposition will be useful in the proof of the following two important theorems.

Theorem 3.21. *Suppose Ψ is a monotonic expansion system. If the set of elements of finite order $S^{[<\infty]}$ is densely ordered in S_0 , then Ψ is separating.*

Proof. First we prove the theorem for strictly increasing expansion systems, and then we will show how the result can be naturally extended to monotonic ones. So let us be given a strictly increasing ES Ψ , and give \hat{C} the dictionary order. If Ψ would not be separating, then there are two different elements $y', y'' \in S_0$, such that $\hat{P}y' = \hat{P}y''$. By Proposition 3.20, we know that \hat{P} is non-decreasing, and hence $\hat{P}y = \hat{P}y'$ for all $y' \leq y \leq y''$. In particular, we can pick two different elements z, z' of finite order, lying both between y' and y'' (we can first apply the property of being densely ordered on y' and y'' to get z , and then on z and y'' to get z'). But then z and z' must have exactly the same coefficients, which contradicts that an element of finite order is uniquely determined by its coefficients (see Remark 2.5). Hence Ψ must be separating.

Now to show that the same is true if all \hat{P}_i are only monotonic. This can be achieved by transforming our monotonic Ψ into a strictly increasing expansion system Ψ' , by reversing the order relations on some of the spaces S_i and C_i . Note that reversing an order on a linearly ordered space keeps the space linearly ordered. The reversing procedure will be according to the following rule: starting from $i = 0, 1, \dots$, we reverse the order on S_{i+1} and C_{i+1} either if F_i is a strictly decreasing map in Ψ and we haven't reversed the order of S_i and C_i in Ψ' , or if F_i is strictly increasing in Ψ , but we also reversed the order on S_i and C_i in Ψ' . By doing this, we keep all strictly increasing maps strictly increasing, and at the same time strictly decreasing maps in Ψ become strictly increasing ones in Ψ' , so that our new Ψ' is a strictly increasing ES. As reversing orderings has neither any effect on the

element and coefficient spaces themselves, nor on the collection of expansions and projections (in fact we are only changing properties which lie outside the essential structure of the ES), the claim of the theorem also applies to Ψ' .[¶] Hence, the statement extends without problems to monotonic expansion systems. \square

Theorem 3.22. *Suppose Ψ is a proper monotonic expansion system, and S_0 has the order topology. Then Ψ is accurate, iff Ψ is separating.*

Proof. As in Theorem 3.21, we first prove the statement for strictly increasing Ψ , and then extend it to the case Ψ is monotonic.

First let us assume that Ψ is accurate, but not separating. Then there are $y, y' \in S_0$, having equal coefficients and Ψ is accurate w.r.t. both of them. This means that $y^{[n]} = y'^{[n]}$ converges to two elements at the same time, and so S_0 cannot be a Hausdorff space. But S_0 has the order topology, which is clearly an Hausdorff space. Hence Ψ must be separating.

To prove the reverse implication, first we give \hat{C} the dictionary order, as well as the order topology \mathcal{C} generated by this ordering. We now prove that the discrete product topology \mathcal{D}^* , is stronger than the dictionary order topology \mathcal{C} on \hat{C} . For let V be an open set in the dictionary order topology, containing an element $\hat{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots)$. W.l.o.g. we may assume that V is either $\hat{C}_{\hat{c}' < \cdot < \hat{c}''}$ or $\hat{C}_{\hat{c} \leq \cdot < \hat{c}''}$ or $\hat{C}_{\hat{c}' < \cdot \leq \hat{c}}$, where \hat{c} and \hat{c} denote respectively the smallest and the largest element in \hat{C} , if it exists. First we regard the case $\hat{C}_{\hat{c}' < \cdot < \hat{c}''}$. As \hat{c} is supposed to lie between \hat{c}' and \hat{c}'' , we have on the one hand that \hat{c}' and \hat{c} have equal coefficients up to and including $n' - 1$ and $c'_{n'} < c_{n'}$. On the other hand we have that \hat{c} and \hat{c}'' have equal coefficients up to and including $n'' - 1$, and $c''_{n''} < c_{n''}$. This means that any coefficient sequence with the same coefficients as \hat{c} up to and including $m = \max(n', n'')$ will lie in the set $\hat{C}_{\hat{c}' < \cdot < \hat{c}''}$. Hence $\pi_n^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_m)$ is a neighborhood of \hat{c} in the discrete product topology, that is contained in V .

If V is a set of the form $\hat{C}_{\hat{c} \leq \cdot < \hat{c}''}$, then we may assume that \hat{c} is the minimal element \hat{c} , for otherwise we can apply the previous result to $\hat{C}_{\hat{c} < \cdot < \hat{c}''}$. But in that case, we can consider the set $\pi_n^{-1}(c_0, \dots, c_m)$, where m is the first coefficient such that $c_m < c''_m$. A similar argument applies to the case $V = \hat{C}_{\hat{c}' < \cdot \leq \hat{c}}$, and thus it follows that the discrete product topology is stronger or equal to the dictionary order topology.

By Theorem 3.6, we have that $\hat{P}y^{[n]}$ converges to $\hat{P}y$ in the discrete product topology. Therefore, $\hat{P}y^{[n]}$ also converges to $\hat{P}y$ in the dictionary order topology \mathcal{C} . This, in turn, implies that $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in the generated topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$. By Proposition 3.20, we know that \hat{P} is non-decreasing, and as Ψ is supposed to be separating, so that \hat{P} is injective,

[¶]Also the property of $S^{[<\infty]}$ being densely ordered in S_0 cannot have been affected by the process of reversing orderings, even if we would have reversed the order on S_0 itself, which we haven't.

we conclude that it must be strictly increasing. Therefore, we have that the topology $\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$ is stronger or equal to the order topology on S_0 , for we can write $(S_0)_{>y'}$ as $\hat{P}^{-1}(\hat{C}_{>\hat{P}(y')})$, and likewise for $(S_0)_{<y''}$. Hence, we have at last that $y^{[n]}$ converges to y in the order topology of S_0 , which means that Ψ is accurate.

To show that the same is true if all \hat{P}_i are only monotonic, we apply exactly the same trick as we have done in the proof of Theorem 3.21. Again, this doesn't affect the essential properties of Ψ , nor does it affect the order topology on S_0 . Hence, the result follows for proper monotonic ES's as well. \square

Corollary 3.23. *Suppose Ψ is a proper monotonic expansion system, and S_0 has the order topology. If $S^{[<\infty]}$ is densely ordered in S_0 , then Ψ is accurate.*

Proof. This follows immediately by combining Theorem 3.21 with Theorem 3.22. \square

This corollary can be used to prove convergence of the ES's in Example 3.19:

Example 3.24. The decimal expansion (Example 1.5) and the continued fraction (Example 1.6) are accurate, if S_0 is given the standard topology (i.e. the Euclidean topology) on the real numbers.

Proof. That these expansion systems are proper and monotonic, we have already shown in former examples. Noting that the standard topology on the reals coincides with the order topology (cf. [16, §14, Ex.1]), it remains to prove that in both cases $S^{[<\infty]}$ is densely ordered in S_0 . For the decimal expansion, this is easy, as we have that the elements of finite order are exactly all multiples of 10^{-k} between (and including) 0 and 1, where k can be any positive number. These numbers are easily seen to be densely ordered (given two of them, we can multiply by a suitable power of 10, so that it boils down to picking a natural number between two other natural numbers). Hence Ψ is accurate in the case of decimal expansion.

In case of the continued fractions, we claim that the elements of finite order are exactly the fractions between (and including) 0 and 1. To see this, we can look at the function $M : \mathbb{Q}_{0 \leq \cdot < 1} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$, which assigns to a fraction p/q (where p and q are written in their lowest terms) the value $p + q$. Then one verifies that for $(p, q) \neq (0, 1)$:

$$M \left(E_i \left(\frac{p}{q} \right) \right) = M \left(\frac{q - c_i p}{p} \right) = q - (c_i - 1)p < p + q = M \left(\frac{p}{q} \right)$$

So if p/q is non-zero, then the value of M decreases with each application of E_i , while it should remain positive. This can only be the case if for

each fraction y in S_0 , $\hat{E}_n y$ equals $0 = \frac{0}{1}$ for n big enough, and this n is by definition the order of y . Also the rational numbers are of course densely ordered, and so by Corollary 3.23, we have that the ES of continued fractions is accurate. \square

There are many more instances of monotonic expansion systems. We will give some more examples.

Example 3.25 (Egyptian Fractions and Engel Expansion). Let $(S_i, \nu_i) = ([0, 1], 0)$, and $C_i = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1} \cup \{\infty\}$. Furthermore, let P_i be given by

$$P_i y = \begin{cases} \infty & \text{if } y = 0 \\ \lceil 1/y \rceil, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

and E_i by

$$E_i y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ y - \frac{1}{P_i y} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Now $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is a bijection, and we have as inverse:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } c = \infty \\ \frac{1}{c} + y & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

By Proposition 1.4, this Ψ is proper. If we give each $C_i = \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1} \cup \{\infty\}$ the reversed order, then each F_i is a strictly increasing map. In the way we have demonstrated in Example 3.24, we can prove that $S_0^{[<\infty]}$ is again exactly the set of rational numbers in S_0 (this time, look at $M(p/q) = p$), so that Ψ is accurate by Corollary 3.23. One easily sees that the approximation this ES provides, is just the sum of reciprocals of the coefficients. For example, if we take the element $y = 1/\sqrt{2} \in S_0$, then we get the approximation:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{5} + \frac{1}{141} + \frac{1}{68575} + \dots$$

Breaking off the series at a given depth, the resulting approximation will be an expression which is a sum of only unit fractions. Such expressions are usually referred to as *Egyptian fractions*.

Now let's make a slight change to our Ψ : we keep all components the same, except for E_i , for which we set:

$$E_i y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } y = 0 \\ y \cdot P_i(y) - 1 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

The inverse of F_i is then given by:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, y) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } c = \infty \\ \frac{1+y}{c} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Again, Ψ is proper by Proposition 1.4, and each F_i is strictly increasing if we give C_i the reversed order. $S^{[<\infty]}$ is the set of rationals (look at $M(p/q) = p$), and thus Ψ is accurate by Corollary 3.23. For the n -th approximation we find:

$$\begin{aligned}
y_n^{[n]} &= 0 \\
y_{n-1}^{[n]} &= \frac{1}{c_{n-1}} \\
y_{n-2}^{[n]} &= \frac{1 + \frac{1}{c_{n-1}}}{c_{n-2}} \\
&\dots \\
y_0^{[n]} &= \frac{1 + \frac{1 + \frac{1 + \frac{1}{c_{n-1}}}{c_{n-2}}}{c_{n-1}}}{c_0}.
\end{aligned}$$

Hence we have the concise expression for y :

$$y = \frac{1 + \frac{1 + \dots}{c_2}}{1 + \frac{c_1}{c_0}} = \frac{1}{c_0} + \frac{1}{c_0 c_1} + \frac{1}{c_0 c_1 c_2} + \dots \quad (3.9)$$

Here, the approximations are a special kind of Egyptian fractions, in which the denominators of consecutive fractions increase by a non-decreasing sequence of factors c_0, c_1, \dots . Such approximations are called *Engel expansions* (cf. [7][9]).

Example 3.26 (Taylor Series). Let Ψ be as in Example 2.6, except that we confine the spaces S_i to only real holomorphic functions. We can view Ψ now as a strictly increasing ES, if we give S_i the ordering defined by:

$$y < y' \quad \text{if} \quad y(x) < y'(x) \quad \text{for all } x \in (x_0, x_0 + \epsilon), \quad (3.10)$$

for some sufficiently small $\epsilon > 0$, depending on y and y' . By the limit properties of y in x_0 , this ordering coincides with the dictionary order on the derivatives of y , and thus the Taylor coefficients. So this demonstrates that Ψ is monotonic. As for the accurateness of Ψ : this is not a very interesting question, as Taylor approximations will at least locally converge just by the definition of holomorphic functions. But indeed, the elements of finite order are the polynomials, and in the ordering we have just put on our element spaces, these are densely ordered in the set of holomorphic functions. So by Corollary 3.23, the Taylor polynomials converge to the initial function in the ordering given by (3.10).

The monotonic expansion systems seem to capture quite some well-known expansions. As for the continued fraction, in which the expanding maps E_i are all strictly decreasing, a similar generalization has priorly been studied by Bissinger in [3], and for the decimal expansions, in which the expanding maps are strictly increasing, a generalization has been introduced by Everett in [10]. Convergence and other properties have been further investigated in [15][17][20][21]. As Rényi remarked in [21], the formulation of Bissinger and Everett are somewhat stricter than necessary. In an elementary formulation (additional requirements could be imposed to obtain convergence), the so-called "f-expansion" of Bissinger and Everett can be translated into an expansion system as follows:

Example 3.27 (f-Expansion). Let Ψ be such that each (S_i, ν_i) equals $([0, 1), 0)$, and let $f : [0, 1) \rightarrow I$ be a monotonic mapping from $[0, 1)$ onto a certain interval I of the extended real line $\mathbb{R} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$. Let each C_i equal $\mathbb{Z} \cup \{-\infty, +\infty\}$. We set all P_i identical to

$$P_i y = \lfloor f(y) \rfloor,$$

and all E_i identical to

$$E_i y = f(y) - P_i y = f(y) - \lfloor f(y) \rfloor,$$

where $\lfloor -\infty \rfloor := -\infty$ and $\lfloor +\infty \rfloor := +\infty$. It should be noted that, because $[0, 1)$ is an half open interval, the value $+\infty$ can only be attained for strictly decreasing f , and $-\infty$ for strictly increasing f . This expansion system models Everett's f -expansion for strictly increasing f , and Bissinger's f -expansion for strictly decreasing f .

4 Isomorphisms between Expansion Systems

In this section we will introduce the concept of homomorphisms, and more importantly isomorphisms between ES's. When two ES's are isomorphic, then they essentially have the same underlying structure, and so they also share the other properties that depend on this structure. The isomorphism itself serves as a translation from one ES to another. Definition 4.1 will give us the tools to construct such homomorphisms and isomorphisms.

4.1 Homomorphisms and Isomorphisms

Definition 4.1. Let $\Psi = (S, C, F)$ and $\Psi' = (S', C', F')$ be two expansion systems. A pair of maps $\Lambda = (\Lambda^S, \Lambda^C) = (\{\Lambda_i^S\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}}, \{\Lambda_i^C\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}})$, such that

$$\Lambda_i^S: S_i \rightarrow S'_i \quad (4.1)$$

$$\Lambda_i^C: C_i \rightarrow C'_i \quad (4.2)$$

is called a *homomorphism* of expansion systems, if the following equations hold:

$$\Lambda_i^S \nu_i = \nu'_i \quad (4.3)$$

$$\Lambda_{i+1}^S E_i = E'_i \Lambda_i^S \quad (4.4)$$

$$\Lambda_i^C P_i = P'_i \Lambda_i^S. \quad (4.5)$$

If this Λ consists of only injective maps, then Λ is called an *embedding* of Ψ in Ψ' . If Λ is bijective, then we call it an *isomorphism* and we say that Ψ and Ψ' are isomorphic.

Based on this definition, we can already get an idea of its purpose by the following proposition.

Proposition 4.2. Suppose Ψ and Ψ' are ES's, and Λ is an homomorphism from Ψ into Ψ' . If $y \in S_0^{(n)}$, then $\Lambda_0^S y \in S_0'^{(n)}$, and we have $(\Lambda_0^S y)^{[\Psi', n]} = \Lambda_0^S y^{[\Psi, n]}$.

Proof. If $y \in S_0^{(n)}$, it follows by Theorem 2.3 that there is an element $y^{[\Psi, n]} \in S_0^{[n]}$ with the same coefficients as y up to and including order $n - 1$. Now by (4.3) and (4.4), we have that $\hat{E}_n(\Lambda_0^S y^{[\Psi, n]}) = \nu'_n$ and thus $\Lambda_0^S y^{[\Psi, n]} \in S_0'^{[n]}$. By (4.5) we have that $\Lambda_0^S y^{[\Psi, n]}$ has the same coefficients as $\Lambda_0^S y$ up to and including order $n - 1$, and thus Theorem 2.3 tells us that $\Lambda_0^S y \in S_0'^{(n)}$ and $(\Lambda_0^S y)^{[\Psi', n]} = \Lambda_0^S y^{[\Psi, n]}$. \square

The equations (4.4) and (4.5) can be rephrased in terms of diagrams. These requirements are satisfied, iff the diagrams in Figure 2 commute. From these diagrams it easily follows that if Λ is bijective, then the set of

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
S_i & \xrightarrow{E_i} & S_{i+1} \\
\downarrow \Lambda_i^S & & \downarrow \Lambda_{i+1}^S \\
S'_i & \xrightarrow{E'_i} & S'_{i+1}
\end{array}
\qquad
\begin{array}{ccc}
S_i & \xrightarrow{P_i} & C_i \\
\downarrow \Lambda_i^S & & \downarrow \Lambda_i^C \\
S'_i & \xrightarrow{P'_i} & C'_i
\end{array}$$

Figure 2: Equations (4.4) and (4.5).

inverse mappings $\Lambda^{-1} = ((\Lambda^S)^{-1}, (\Lambda^C)^{-1})$ is an isomorphism as well. This gives us the following corollary to Proposition 4.2.

Corollary 4.3. *If Ψ and Ψ' are isomorphic by the isomorphism Λ , then $y \in S_0^{(n)}$ iff $\Lambda_0^S y \in S_0'^{(n)}$, and we have:*

$$y^{[\Psi, n]} = (\Lambda_0^S)^{-1} (\Lambda_0^S y)^{[\Psi', n]}, \text{ and} \quad (4.6)$$

$$y'^{[\Psi', n]} = \Lambda_0^S ((\Lambda_0^S)^{-1} y')^{[\Psi, n]}. \quad (4.7)$$

Remark 4.4. In particular, this corollary says that if Ψ and Ψ' are isomorphic, then properness of one of them also guarantees properness of the other. This cannot be said of accurateness, as the concept of isomorphy is indifferent to which topology is given on the initial element space S_0 . However, if we have that Λ_0^S is a homeomorphism between S_0 and S'_0 , then of course convergence or accurateness of one of the ES's, implies respectively convergence and accurateness of the other.

Furthermore, it should be noted that the relationship of being isomorphic defines an equivalence relation among expansion systems, as is easily verified.

We will now regard some elementary properties for commutative diagrams, which we will then apply to the situation above. These properties can be best illustrated with the diagrams of Figure 3. The first of these four

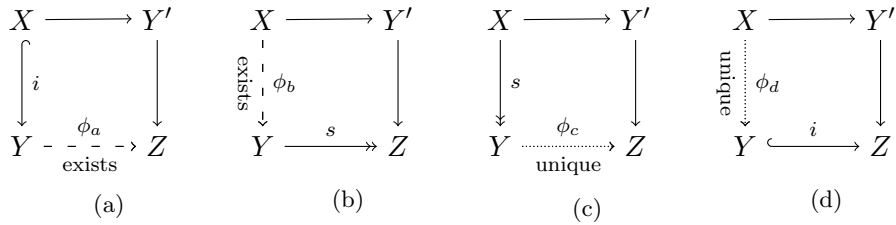


Figure 3: Four Properties of Commutative Diagrams.

diagrams, Diagram (a), says that if we have only three of the four maps, and there is an injective map i leading to the map that is missing, then a fourth map ϕ_a must exist, which completes the commutative diagram. The same

can be said if there is a surjective map s , such that the map that is missing would lead to the map s , as is shown in Diagram (b). Diagram (c) expresses that if we have three out of four maps, and a surjective map s leads to the map missing, then any map ϕ_c completing the diagram has to be unique, i.e. there is at most one map ϕ_c which could complete the diagram. Finally, Diagram (d) says the same thing for the case that the missing map ϕ_d would lead to some injective map i . One may verify that maps are a solution for these diagrams, if and only if we have:

$$\phi_a|_{i(X)}: i(x) \mapsto f(x), \quad (4.8)$$

$$\phi_b(x) \in s^{-1}(f(x)), \quad (4.9)$$

$$\phi_c: s(x) \mapsto f(x), \quad (4.10)$$

$$\phi_d: x \mapsto i_l^{-1} \circ f(x), \quad (4.11)$$

where the map $f: X \rightarrow Z$ denotes the composed map from X to Z via Y' , and i_l^{-1} is the left inverse of i on $f(X)$. The map ϕ_d in (4.11) can be defined if and only if $f(X) \subset i(Y)$. For our situation of expansion systems, the above statements have, among others, the following implications:

Theorem 4.5. *Let us be given two sequences of element spaces S and S' , and two sequences of coefficient spaces C and C' . Throughout the following statements, we do not make any prior assumptions about existence of the connecting sequences E, E', P, P', Λ^S or Λ^C , except for those which are mentioned explicitly. Then we have that:*

- A1 *Given E and injective Λ^S , then an E' satisfying (4.4) exists.*
- A2 *Given P, Λ^C and injective Λ^S , then a P' satisfying (4.5) exists.*
- B *Given E' and surjective Λ^S , then an E satisfying (4.4) exists.*
- C1 *Given E and surjective Λ^S , then the unique map E'_i satisfying (4.4) exists, iff it sends $\Lambda_i^S y$ to $\Lambda_{i+1}^S E_i y$.*
- C2 *Given P, Λ^C and surjective Λ^S , then the unique map P' satisfying (4.5) exists, iff it sends $\Lambda_i^S y$ to $\Lambda_i^C P_i y$.*
- D *Given E' and injective Λ^S , then the unique map E satisfying (4.4) exists, iff $E'_i \Lambda_i^S(S_i) \subset \Lambda_{i+1}^S(S_{i+1})$.*

Remark 4.6. Different from the other statements of Theorem 4.5, the claims B and D can be used in case the ES Ψ' is given, and one wants to embed a certain $\Psi = (S, C, F)$ into this Ψ' . w

Theorem 4.7. *Let Ψ be an ES, and let S' and C' be two other sequences of respectively element and coefficient spaces. Then there exists an ES $\Psi' = (S', C', F')$ isomorphic to Ψ , iff there is a collection of bijective mappings Λ^C*

between C and C' , and bijective mappings Λ^S between S and S' , satisfying (4.3). Given such bijective Λ^S and Λ^C , F' is uniquely determined by:

$$E'_i = \Lambda_{i+1}^S E_i (\Lambda_i^S)^{-1} \quad \text{and} \quad (4.12)$$

$$P'_i = \Lambda_i^C P_i (\Lambda_i^S)^{-1}. \quad (4.13)$$

Proof. The existence of a sequence $F' = (P', E')$ satisfying (4.4) and (4.5) follows from Theorem 4.5A1 and A2. As Λ^S is bijective, Theorem 4.5C1 and C2 tells us that E' and P' are uniquely determined by (4.12) and (4.13). \square

Corollary 4.8. *Let $\Psi = (S, C, F)$ be an ES. Then an ES $\Psi' = (S, C, F')$ is isomorphic to Ψ , iff there is a collection of automorphisms Λ^C on C , and automorphisms Λ^S on S , satisfying (4.3), such that F' can be defined as in (4.12) and (4.13).*

Theorem 4.9. *Let Ψ be an ES, and suppose each map E_i is a composition of two maps $E_i^{(1)}: S_i \rightarrow S'_i$ and $E_i^{(2)}: S'_i \rightarrow S_{i+1}$, $E_i^{(1)}$ being bijective. Let $\Psi' = (S', C', F')$ be a another ES, where S'_i is the domain of $E_i^{(2)}$, and which is further defined as:*

$$\nu'_i := E_i^{(1)} \nu_i \quad (4.14)$$

$$C'_i := C_i, \quad (4.15)$$

$$P'_i := P_i \circ (E_i^{(1)})^{-1}, \quad (4.16)$$

$$E'_i := E_{i+1}^{(1)} \circ E_i^{(2)}. \quad (4.17)$$

In diagram, this looks like Figure 4. Then $\Lambda_i^S = E_i^{(1)}$ and $\Lambda_i^C = \text{Id}$ form an isomorphism from Ψ to Ψ' .

Proof. We observe that our Λ^S and Λ^C are bijective, satisfying (4.3), and thus the claim follows from Theorem 4.7. \square

4.2 Applications of Isomorphisms

We will now continue with some examples of isomorphisms between expansion systems.

Example 4.10 (Newton's interpolation formula). Consider an ES Ψ where each S_i is the space of real polynomials, which we will view as functions on \mathbb{R} in the variable x , and we let $\nu_i = 0$. Let P_i be given by $P_i(y) = y(0)$, and let $E_i := \Delta$, which is the forward difference operator: $\Delta y(x) = y(x+1) - y(x)$. Now $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is injective, for suppose we would have $y(0) = z(0)$ and $\Delta(y) = \Delta(z)$ for certain polynomials $y, z \in S_i$. Then by linearity $\Delta(y-z) = 0$ and $(y-z)(0) = 0$, which is only satisfied by the zero polynomial. Hence $y = z$, and we conclude that Ψ is proper. As we

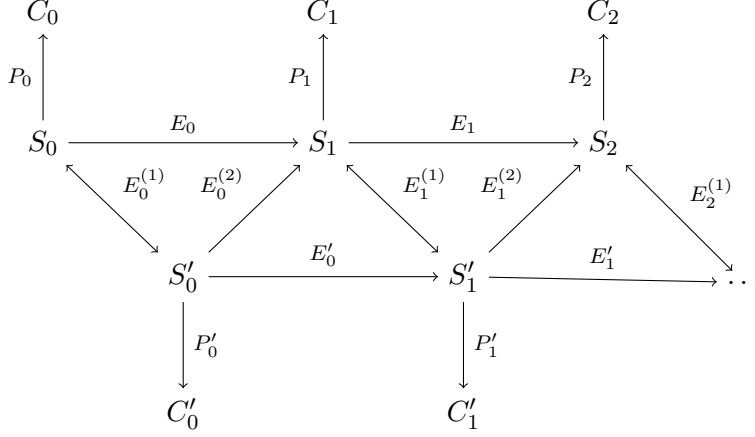


Figure 4: Expansion systems with a relative shift

have that $\Delta^k y = 0$ iff k is bigger than the polynomial degree of y , Definition 2.1 tells us that the order of an element y equals its degree plus one (except for the order of 0, which is just 0). So all elements in S_0 are elements of finite order, and thus by Remark 3.2 we have that Ψ is an accurate ES, regardless of the topology on S_0 .

However, this theoretic result doesn't give us an idea of how these kind of approximations look like. To find this out, let's not write out our polynomials in the more common basis $1, x, x^2, x^3$, etc., but in the base

$$\binom{x}{0}, \binom{x}{1}, \binom{x}{2}, \dots = 1, \frac{x}{1!}, \frac{x(x-1)}{2!}, \frac{x(x-1)(x-2)}{3!}, \dots,$$

where the $\binom{x}{k}$ denotes a binomial coefficient. Now if for certain i , $y_{i+1}^{[n]}$ happens to be of the form

$$y_{i+1}^{[n]} = c_{i+1} \binom{x}{0} + \dots + c_{n-1} \binom{x}{n-i-2},$$

where $c_i = \hat{P}_i y$, then using that $\Delta \binom{x}{k} = \binom{x}{k-1}$, we get:

$$F_i^{-1}(c_i, y_{i+1}^{[n]}) = c_i + c_{i+1} \binom{x}{1} + \dots + c_{n-1} \binom{x}{n-i-1}.$$

That $y_{i+1}^{[n]}$ is indeed expressible in the form above, follows by induction, whereby we observe that $y_n^{[n]}$ fits in this pattern as being the empty sum 0. The n -th order approximation $y^{[n]}$ thus equals:

$$y^{[n]} = c_0 + c_1 \binom{x}{1} + \dots + c_{n-1} \binom{x}{n-1}.$$

As we had already proven that Ψ is convergent, it follows that every polynomial y can be written as:

$$y = \sum_{k \geq 0} c_k \binom{x}{k} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{\Delta^k y(0)}{k!} x \cdots (x - k + 1).$$

This result is known as Newton's forward difference interpolation formula (cf. [11, §1.2]).

No isomorphisms so far. Now let's construct a new ES Ψ' , which element and coefficient spaces are exact copies of S and C . The maps

$$\Lambda_i^S y(x) = -y(-x), \quad \text{and} \quad (4.18)$$

$$\Lambda_i^C c = -c, \quad (4.19)$$

are then clearly automorphisms on S_i and C_i (they are even self-inverse functions), and Λ^S satisfies (4.3). Therefore, Corollary 4.8 tells us that if we put:

$$P'_i y(x) = \Lambda_i^C P_i (\Lambda_i^S)^{-1} y(x) = \Lambda_i^C P_i - y(-x) = \Lambda_i^C - y(0) = y(0),$$

and furthermore

$$E'_i y(x) = \Lambda_{i+1}^S E_i (\Lambda_i^S)^{-1} y(x) = \Lambda_{i+1}^S E_i - y(-x) = \Lambda_{i+1}^S (-y(-x - 1) + y(-x)) = y(x) - y(x - 1),$$

then $\Psi' = (S, C, F')$ will be isomorphic with Ψ . Note that we here have $P' = P$, and E'_i equals the backward difference operator ∇ . So the only difference with Ψ , is that our expansions are given by backward differences, instead of forward differences. To establish properness and accurateness of Ψ' , and to find out what approximations it provides, although we could, we do not have to repeat all the steps we have gone through for Ψ . Simply by invoking Corollary 4.3 and Remark 4.4, we conclude that Ψ' must be proper. Giving both S_0 and S'_0 the discrete topology, Λ_0^S becomes a homeomorphism. As we have already remarked, Ψ is accurate for every topology on S_0 , in particular the discrete topology. Therefore, Ψ' has to be accurate as well, and for its approximations we find:

$$y(x)^{[\Psi', n]} = \Lambda_0^S ((\Lambda_0^S)^{-1} y)^{[\Psi, n]} = \Lambda_0^S (-y(-x))^{[\Psi, n]} = \Lambda_0^S \left(\sum_{k=0, \dots, n-1} \frac{(-1)^{k+1} \nabla^k y(0)}{k!} x \cdots (x - k + 1) \right) = \quad (4.20)$$

$$\sum_{k=0, \dots, n-1} \frac{(-1)^{k+1} \nabla^k y(0)}{k!} (-x) \cdots (-x - k + 1) = \sum_{k=0, \dots, n-1} \frac{\nabla^k y(0)}{k!} x \cdots (x + k - 1) \quad (4.21)$$

where in (4.20) we use both that $\Delta(-y) = -\Delta y$ and that $\Delta(y(-x)) = -(\nabla y)(-x)$, which implies by induction: $\Delta^k(-y(-x)) = (-1)^{k+1}(\nabla^k y)(-x)$. Taking the limit of (4.21) as n goes to infinity, we get:

$$y = \sum_{k \geq 0} \frac{\nabla^k y(0)}{k!} x \cdots (x + k - 1), \quad (4.22)$$

which is known as Newton's backward difference interpolation formula (cf. [11, Ch. 1, prob. 6]).

Example 4.11. The expansions of the decimal expansion, described in Example 1.5, are composed of two maps $E_i^{(1)}$ and $E_i^{(2)}$, namely:

$$\begin{aligned} E_i^{(1)}: [0, 1) &\rightarrow [0, 10), \quad y \mapsto 10y, \\ E_i^{(2)}: [0, 10) &\rightarrow [0, 1), \quad y' \mapsto y' - \lfloor y' \rfloor. \end{aligned}$$

As the first of these two maps is a bijection, we have by Theorem 4.9 that the Ψ of Example 1.5 is isomorphic with the ES described by: $S'_i = [0, 10)$, $C'_i = C_i$, $P_i y' = \lfloor y' \rfloor$ and $E'_i y' = 10(y' - P'_i y)$. The elements and its convergents from the former ES can be translated into elements and convergents for this ES, just by multiplying with a factor 10.

Something similar applies to the continued fraction (Example 1.6), and we have that the ES is isomorphic to one defined by: $S'_i = \mathbb{R}_{>1}$, $C'_i = C_i$, $P_i y' = \lfloor y' \rfloor$ and $E'_i y' = 1/(y' - P'_i y)$.

There are quite some more situations, for which there exists the choice in what order to apply the mappings which the expansions E_i are composed of. In those cases, Theorem 4.9 may tell us that the chosen order is actually not essential for the approximations which the ES provides. Another example of this can be found in the appendix about approximation systems.

Appendix: Approximation Systems

In this appendix, we will have a glimpse at so-called *approximation systems*. A first description of approximation systems was given in [18], and in more detail it is discussed in [19]. Here, we will give another description of AS's (approximation systems), but now in the language of expansion systems. The research regarding approximation systems is still going on, and there are quite some issues that need yet to be clarified. The content of this appendix should therefore be read as a rough account of recent investigations, rather than a rigorous treatment of the subject.

Although the original formulation of AS's is somewhat different from the language of ES's, we will see that ES's are indeed capable of describing AS's, and even in a more general setting. However, this translation from AS's to ES's is not so straightforward, and particular complexities do arise. The different nature of AS's and ES's is the main reason for this. While the first is described by a sequence of differential equations for a particular sequence of functions, the second one has to be described by a sequence of maps between function spaces as a whole.

Perhaps we could avoid some problems by drastically limiting the extent of the spaces S_i , but besides that this would still leave some obstacles to overcome, it would also be a pity, as it turns out that the use of expansion systems allows us to give a general approximation algorithm, which can be applied to a wide range of function at the same time. The formulation of AS's chosen in this section is based on function germs. This solves certain technical problems, that could otherwise prevent the ES from being well-defined. But presumably, it is not strictly necessary to rely on the concept of germs, and at the end of this section we will briefly discuss the possibility of describing the element spaces of an approximation system as consisting of analytic functions on a certain domain.

Instead of giving a complete definition of AS's, we will start give some examples of it. These examples will should already give an idea of what AS's are.

Examples of Approximation Systems

Before we come to the first examples, we mention some notation regarding *function germs*, which will be used in the examples. For a brief description of germs, see for instance [14, end of Ch. 3].

Definition 4.12. Given an analytic germ y at x_0 , we denote the multiplicity of its zero in x_0 by $M(y)$. This can attain all values in $\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, as well as ∞ , which we reserve for the germ constant 0.

Example 4.13. Let S_i be the space of germs in x_0 with constant term 1, and let $\nu_i = 1$. Further, we let $C_i = \mathbb{C} \times (\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\})$, and let P_i be given

by

$$P_i y = ([(x - x_0)^{-M(Dy)} Dy](x_0), M(Dy)),$$

where the first entry simply denotes the first Taylor coefficient after the constant term 1. If y is constant 1, we may set $P_i y = (0, \infty)$ and $E_i y = 1$ (satisfying (1.1)). For all other y we set:

$$E_i(y) = \left(\frac{Dy(x)}{c_i(x - x_0)^{m_i}} \right)^{\alpha_i}, \quad (4.23)$$

where $(c_i, m_i) = P_i y$, and α_i can be any value in $\mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ (note that the germ $h := Dy(x)/(c_i(x - x_0)^{m_i})$ is 1 in x_0 , so that we can take the principle value for the logarithm in $h^{\alpha_i} = \exp(\alpha_i \log h)$). These mappings define a proper ES Ψ , for we have that $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is bijective, with inverse:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, m, y) = 1 + \int_{x_0}^x c(t - x_0)^m y(t)^{\frac{1}{\alpha_i}} dt,$$

which evaluates to 1 in case $c = 0$. In the context of our ES, all these expressions are formally to be interpreted as just germs in x_0 , but as we will see later, they have more practical value than just representing germs.

Remark 4.14. The expansions E_i can be decomposed into $E_i^{(1)}: S_i \rightarrow S'_i$ and $E_i^{(2)}: S'_i \rightarrow S_{i+1}$, where:

$$E_i^{(1)} y = D y, \quad (4.24)$$

$$E_i^{(2)} y' = \left(\frac{y'(x)}{c_i(x - x_0)^{m_i}} \right)^{\alpha_i}. \quad (4.25)$$

As the first of these maps is bijective on the space of germs with constant term 1, we have by Theorem 4.9 that our Ψ is isomorphic with Ψ' , where:

$$P'_i y = ([(x - x_0)^{-M(y)} y](x_0), M(y)), \quad (4.26)$$

$$E'_i y(x) = D_x \left(\frac{y(x)}{[(x - x_0)^{M(y)} y](x_0)} \right)^{\alpha_i}. \quad (4.27)$$

Note that we have:

$$P_i = P'_i E_i^{(1)}. \quad (4.28)$$

In fact, the formulation of Ψ' has been the underlying principle in [18], whereas the formulation of Ψ coincides with the formulation in [19]. As $\Lambda^S y = Dy$ gives an isomorphism between the spaces S_i and S'_i , and S'_i does not have the restriction of having constant term 1, it is clear that this restriction on S_i is actually not that limitative. In fact we could drop this restriction on S_0 (i.e. we take as initial space S'_0), and in a similar way as we have mentioned in Example 1.5, we let our first expansion be given by simply $E_0^{(2)}$, keeping all further expansions just as they were. Then the ES can be applied to any holomorphic germs.

As we haven't fixed the value of α_i in the AS in Example 4.13, it actually represents a whole collection of AS's. We will now consider some particular instances of it. When each $\alpha_i = 1$, it can easily be verified that the approximations are just the Taylor approximations (besides the restriction in S_0 on the constant term, the main difference with the approximations provided by Example 2.6, is that here the n -th order convergent gives the first $n - 1$ non-zero terms of the Taylor series, whereas in Example 2.6 the terms up to and including order $n - 1$ will be given).

More generally, when each α_i is a positive unitary fraction $1/p_i$ with $p_i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$, then the resulting approximations will be polynomials. Using concise notation, such as we have used in (1.7) and (3.9), we can write the approximation process as:

$$y(w) = 1 + \int_0^w c_0 w_1^{m_0} \left(1 + \int_0^{w_1} c_1 w_2^{m_1} (\dots)^{p_1} dw_2 \right)^{p_0} dw_1, \quad (4.29)$$

using local coordinates $w = x - x_0$, and where $(m_i, c_i) = \hat{P}_i y$. This expression suggest that this ES is actually accurate. Of course, by Theorem 3.6 we have convergence in the weakly discrete topology. In fact, it can be shown that this means that the first $n - 1$ non-zero Taylor coefficients of the n -th convergent coincide with the first $n - 1$ non-zero Taylor coefficients of the initial function y (cf. [19, Cr. 5.4]). This means we have also weak convergence in the sense that the derivatives of all orders convergence in the point x_0 . But in practice we often have even more than that. Consider the situation in which each $p_i = 2$, and look at the element $y(x) = 1/x$ and $x_0 = 1$. Then (4.29) reduces to:

$$\frac{1}{\sqrt{1-x}} = 1 + \frac{1}{2} \int_0^x \left(1 + \frac{3}{4} \int_0^{x_1} \left(1 + \frac{7}{8} \int_0^{x_2} (\dots)^2 dx_3 \right)^2 dx_2 \right)^2 dx_1. \quad (4.30)$$

The coefficients c_i in this formula, have been moved outside of the integrals. The first few convergents are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} y^{[0]}(x) &= 1 \\ y^{[1]}(x) &= 1 + \frac{x}{2} \\ y^{[2]}(x) &= 1 + \frac{x}{2} + \frac{3x^2}{8} + \frac{3x^3}{32} \\ y^{[3]}(x) &= 1 + \frac{x}{2} + \frac{3x^2}{8} + \frac{5x^3}{16} + \frac{175x^4}{1024} + \frac{147x^5}{2048} + \frac{343x^5}{16384} + \frac{343x^5}{131072} \end{aligned}$$

Interpreting these polynomials as complex functions rather than germs, convergence can be established on the open disk with radius 1. In [19] this has been proven for all powers $p \geq 2$. However, despite the fact that the head

of all these polynomials coincides with the Taylor series, computer simulations have pointed out that the actual domain of convergence is in fact larger than this open disk, and thus not symmetric. Of course, the domain of convergence *is* symmetric in the complex direction, and the pole in $x = 1$ lies on its boundary. What the exact contours are, remains nonetheless a challenging question.

Remark 4.15. In the example above, if S_i would be defined as a space of holomorphic functions on a fixed neighborhood U of x_0 , then we can always find a function y on which E_i is not well-defined, as it would introduce a branch point to U . And at the same time, possibly this y *could* be successfully approximated, if only our domain was somewhat smaller than U . In the formulation with germs, the algorithm applies without problems to all relevant functions. In the subsection *Further Aspects of Approximation Systems* we will briefly discuss an alternative formulation, which could possibly solve this issue in a yet different way.

We have allowed the α_i in Example 4.13 to depend on i , and it is indeed possible to vary α_i as i increases. For example, when we let α_i run through $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{3}, \frac{1}{4}, \dots$ and we look at $y(x) = e^x$, then we get the expansion:

$$e^x = 1 + \int_0^x \left(1 + \frac{1}{2!} \int_0^{x_1} \left(1 + \frac{1}{3!} \int_0^{x_2} (\dots)^4 dx_3 \right)^3 dx_2 \right)^2 dx_1. \quad (4.31)$$

Although the convergence of this formula turns out to be very fast, it also requires much more effort to evaluate than a Taylor series.

So far we have only considered unit fractions, which give polynomial convergents. Another possibility are positive integer α_i . For instance, when we let α_i run through $2, 3, 4, \dots$ instead, and pick $y = e^x$ again, then we get more or less the opposite of (4.31):

$$e^x = 1 + \int_0^x \sqrt{1 + 2! \int_0^{x_1} \sqrt[3]{1 + 3! \int_0^{x_2} \sqrt[4]{\dots} dx_3} dx_2} dx_1. \quad (4.32)$$

Here, the convergents are no longer polynomials, but more complex expressions. Symbolic computation is impossible for higher orders of the convergents, and so the only option seems to be numerical evaluation, or computations in terms of power series. Although the appearance of the factorials in the last two formulas for e^x may seem remarkable, they are actually imposed by our choice of α_i . For example, if we would keep α_i constant as in (4.30), then the coefficients form a geometric sequence instead.

Another interesting instance of Example 4.13, we get by setting $\alpha_i = -1$.

In concise notation, this gives us expansions like:

$$e^x = 1 + \int_0^x \frac{1}{1 - \int_0^{x_1} \frac{dx_2}{1 + \int_0^{x_2} \frac{dx_3}{1 - \int_0^{x_3} \frac{dx_4}{\dots}}}} \quad (4.33)$$

$$x^a = 1 + \int_1^x \frac{a \, dx_1}{1 + \int_1^{x_1} \frac{1 - a \, dx_2}{1 + \int_1^{x_2} \frac{a \, dx_3}{1 + \int_1^{x_3} \frac{1 - a \, dx_4}{\dots}}}} \quad (4.34)$$

$$\cosh x = 1 + \int_0^x \frac{x_1 \, dx_1}{1 - \int_0^{x_1} \frac{x_2 \, dx_2}{3 + \int_0^{x_2} \frac{7 \, x_3 \, dx_3}{5 - \int_0^{x_3} \frac{221 \, x_4 \, dx_4}{2205 \cdot \dots}}}} \quad (4.35)$$

Remark 4.16. The first two of these formulas show a regular pattern. In fact, we can view these two formulas as a repeated application of an operator T , for which y is a fixed point. For instance, in (4.33) we have:

$$Ty(x) = 1 + \int_0^x \frac{dx_1}{1 - \int_0^{x_1} \frac{dx_2}{y(x_2)}}$$

which has as fixed point e^x . The reason that there exists such an operator T , is that the initial function y satisfies a finite cycle of differential equations, determined by (4.23). In this case, it is a cycle of length 2. In general, if we are given a cycle of equations:

$$y_i(x) = c_i + \int_{x_0}^x f_i(y_{i+1}(t), t) \, dt, \quad (i = 0, \dots, n-1, \quad y_n = y_0), \quad (4.36)$$

then the solution may also be found by a Picard iteration:

$$T\vec{y} = \vec{c} + \int_{x_0}^x \vec{f} \circ \vec{y}(t) \, dt,$$

on a multi-dimensional $\vec{y}: \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ (cf. [12, 7.2]). For this, we set $\vec{f}: \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^n$ as:

$$\vec{f}(y_0, \dots, y_{n-1}) = (f_0 \circ y_1, \dots, f_{n-2} \circ y_{n-1}, f_{n-1} \circ y_0)$$

and as constant of integration simply $\vec{c} = (c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{n-1})$.

Starting this iteration with the vector $\vec{y} = (\nu_0, \dots, \nu_{n-1})$ (for the case each $\nu_i = 1$, this is just the vector $(1, \dots, 1)$), then after n repetitions, the first entry of this vector equals $y^{[n]}$.

Of course, the algorithm still applies when there is no such cycle for y . The third formula is an example of this, and its coefficients do not follow an obvious pattern. Such continued fraction-like expressions can be obtained for every analytic function, and for most it will require quite some effort to calculate the coefficients. Furthermore, the convergents cannot be expressed in terms of elementary functions for high orders of n . For example, in (4.33) we can only determine the convergents up to and including order 4:

$$\begin{aligned} y^{[0]}(x) &= 1 \\ y^{[1]}(x) &= 1 + x \\ y^{[2]}(x) &= 1 - \log(1 - x) \\ y^{[3]}(x) &= 1 + e \cdot \operatorname{li} \frac{1}{e} - e \cdot \operatorname{li} \frac{1+x}{e}, \end{aligned}$$

where li denotes the logarithmic integral. For the orders $n \geq 4$, we have to rely on numerical methods to evaluate the expression. Although the rate of convergence of the above formulas turns out to be rather slow, its domain of convergence is surprisingly large. In the situation of (4.34), the approximations even seem to converge when we evaluate them on paths going around the branch point of x^a , when a is not a nonnegative integer. We will come back to this observation at the end of this appendix. Before that, let us consider two more examples of AS's.

Example 4.17. Unlike Example 4.13, we now let S_i be the space of holomorphic germs at x_0 with constant term 0, and $\nu_i = 0$. We let C_i and P_i be just as in Example 4.13, but now we set $E_i y = 0$ if $y = 0$, and otherwise:

$$E_i(y) = \log \frac{Dy(x)}{c_i x^{m_i}}.$$

These mappings define a proper ES Ψ , for we have that $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is bijective, with inverse:

$$F_i^{-1}(c, m, y) = \int_{x_0}^x c(x - x_0)^m e^{y(t)} dt,$$

which evaluates to 0 in case $c = 0$.

This AS provides us with formulas such as:

$$\log x = \int_1^x dx_1 e^{-\int_1^{x_1} dx_2 e^{-\int_1^{x_2} dx_3 e^{-\int_1^{x_3} dx_4 e^{\cdots}}}} \quad (4.37)$$

$$\tan x = \int_0^x dx_1 e^{\int_0^{x_1} dx_2 2x_2 e^{\int_0^{x_2} dx_3 \frac{2}{3}x_3 e^{\int_0^{x_3} dx_4 \frac{14}{15}x_4 e^{\cdots}}}} \quad (4.38)$$

For clarity, we put the variable of integration in front of the integrand, instead of behind. The first of these formulas can be viewed as iterating a single operator, like we saw with (4.33) and (4.34). In this case, the operator entails only one integration in total, as the cycle of differential equations consists merely of the equation:

$$\frac{d}{dx} - \log x = -e^{-\log x}.$$

In other words, this formula just expresses a Picard iteration. Note that in Equation 4.37, we have multiplied both sides of the equation by a factor -1 afterwards. The second formula does not arise from a cycle of differential equations, and so the coefficient do not follow a cycle either. Numerical simulations suggest that both of these formulas converge on a certain domain (as for (4.37), which is equivalent to a Picard iteration, this should not come as a surprise).

Example 4.18. In this example, we let S_i consist of the germs with constant term 1 again, as in Example 4.13, but now we let $C_i = \mathbb{C}^2 \times (\mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\})$. Further, we let E_i be the composition of maps $E_i^{(1)}$ and $E_i^{(2)}$, where $E_i^{(2)}$ is defined as in (4.25), and $E_i^{(1)}$ is the composition $K \circ D$, where $Ky := y - y(x_0)$. This basically means that $E_i^{(1)}$ first differentiates a function, and chops off the constant term afterwards. Note that this $E_i^{(1)}$ isn't bijective any longer. We set P_i to:

$$P_i y = (Dy(x_0), (x^{-M(KDy)} K Dy)(x_0), M(KDy)).$$

These mappings define a proper ES Ψ , and $F_i = (P_i, E_i)$ is bijective, with inverse:

$$F_i^{-1}(b, c, m, y) = 1 + bx + \int_{x_0}^x c(t - x_0)^m y(t)^{\frac{1}{\alpha_i}} dt.$$

We may verify that this expression is mapped to y by E_i , and that the projection P_i indeed gives the parameters (b, c, m) .

The above AS gives us among others the expansion:

$$3x^2 + x^3 = \int_0^x 6x_1 \sqrt[3]{1 + \frac{3x_1}{2} + \int_0^{x_1} \frac{3x_2}{2} \sqrt[3]{1 + \frac{3x_2}{4} + \int_0^{x_2} \frac{3x_3}{8} \sqrt[3]{\dots} dx_3} dx_2} dx_1. \quad (4.39)$$

This equation is obtained by applying the AS to $(x+1)^3$, and subtracting the equal terms (i.e. $1 + 3x$) afterwards. The coefficients obey the pattern $b_i = 3/2^i$ and $c_i = 3/2^{2i-1}$.

Further Aspects of Approximation Systems

We have just seen some examples of approximation systems, as well as the kind of results it gives. This may have sparked a couple of questions. First of all, what is the meaning of all these formula's? As noted before, when we interpret the equations as dealing with germs, the equality symbol expresses that the left hand side is the limit of a sequence defined by the right hand side, namely in the weakly discrete topology. But in many cases, the expressions do also converge in the more common topology. For some particular cases, this has been established in [19]. For many others, this has only been suggested by numerical simulations.

Although for some AS's the rate of convergence can be really high with respect to particular elements y , in most cases this does not seem to compensate for the effort necessary to (numerically) evaluate these kind of expansions. Of course, it may well be that there are situations in which the algorithm really serves practical purpose, but in other situations it would probably not be the prime motivation to study these identities. Probably more interesting is the fact that these expansion do converge in the first place, also when it involves quickly increasing functions such as in (4.38). Even more remarkable, is that the domain of convergence can take extraordinary shapes. We already mentioned this regarding (4.30) and (4.34).

For the first of these, we know for sure that its domain of convergence is at least the open disk with radius 1 (see [19]), but evaluating the algorithm numerically, we find a domain which is considerably larger than that, delimited by a very irregular boundary, with even fractal like characteristics. As for now, we could only speculate about what this is supposed to mean.

At Equation (4.34), we already mentioned that here the approximations seem to converge, even when going around the singularity at $x = 0$ for $a \notin \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$. What we mean with this is the following. Let's first choose a parametrization $\gamma: [0, r] \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$ of a path going around the origin (this could be $\gamma(t) = e^{ti}$ for example, but if we are performing a numerical simulation, a path in the shape of a square would also do). Next, we evaluate the expansion given in (4.34) up to a certain order, but when calculating the integrals, we restrict ourselves to the path γ . Then, we determine the values

of x^a on the same path γ by analytic continuation (if $\gamma(t) = e^{ti}$, this is just e^{ati}). If our γ doesn't happen to have crossed a singularity of some $y_i^{[n]}$ (of which there can only be finitely many), it turns out that the approximated values of $y^{[n]}$ on γ , converges to the value of y on this γ , as n gets larger. In somewhat loose notation, this means:

$$\gamma(t)^a = 1 + \int_0^t \frac{a D\gamma(t_1) dt_1}{1 + \int_0^{t_1} \frac{1 - a D\gamma(t_2) dt_2}{1 + \int_0^{t_2} \frac{a D\gamma(t_3) dt_3}{1 + \int_0^{t_3} \frac{1 - a D\gamma(t_4) dt_4}{\dots}}}}$$

where the integration variables t_i run through the domain $[0, r]$. As long as γ doesn't accidentally cross some singularity like we just mentioned, this identity always seems to hold, no matter what the end point of γ is, and how many times it has turned around the singularity at $x = 0$. Performing a similar procedure on the Taylor expansion (viewed as an AS), we don't have this property. For example, picking $\gamma(t) = e^{ti}$, we can find either by calculation or by reasoning, that:

$$\gamma(t)^a = 1 + a(e^{it} - 1) + \frac{a(a-1)}{2!}(e^{it} - 1)^2 + \dots$$

which diverges for $t > \frac{\pi}{3}$.

In order to study this kind of convergence behavior for AS's in general, it may be desirable to give a different formulation of AS's. Possibly, we could let the spaces S_i consist of multilayered functions covering the complex plane, allowing different functions to live on different domains, but each of these domains being marked with a certain basepoint x_0 . Then the expansions E_i determine a transition from one multilayered function to another, which might as well alter the Riemann surface a function lives on. If we want to compare the values of two functions y and y' that live on different domains, (so that we are able to define a criterion for convergence), we can lift paths in \mathbb{C} , such that the begin point of the lift is in both situations x_0 . The difference in value of y and y' on the lift of a suitable path γ , serves as a measure for how close the two functions are on that particular path. Of course, to give this whole formulation a solid foundation, will require a lot more work, which we leave outside the scope of this thesis.

After all this discussion, there is at least one question which still isn't answered yet: what is an approximation system? The different examples may of course have given an impression of what is meant with it, but a strict definition has not been given. As one may have noticed, the expansions and projections take various forms, which are difficult to capture all in a single definition. Restricting ourselves to the formulation with germs, approximation systems may be informally described as expansion systems on spaces

of holomorphic germs, for which each expansion is a transformation which (possibly) erases some of the information of the lower order derivatives (i.e. an initial part of the Taylor series), and for which the projections are the containers of this information. A further smoothness condition on the expansions and projections may be desirable, in order to have convergence of the AS. Of course, this description of AS's is still too vague to be used within a mathematical context, but hopefully it does give an idea of the mechanism behind AS's.

It is clear that approximation systems open the door to a virtually endless number of expansions. And then we haven't even mentioned yet the case in which we do not involve any differentiations in our maps E_i . For instance, if we replace the differential operator in Example 4.13 and Example 4.17 by the operation $Ky = y - y(x_0)$, as introduced in Example 4.18, then a whole new family of identities arises, such as:

$$W(x) = xe^{-xe^{-xe^{-xe^{-xe^{\cdots}}}}} \quad (4.40)$$

$$2 + x = 2\sqrt{1 + x\sqrt{1 + \frac{x}{2}\sqrt{1 + \frac{x}{4}\sqrt{1 + \frac{x}{8}\sqrt{\cdots}}}}} \quad (4.41)$$

$$\tan x = \frac{x}{1 - \frac{x^2}{3 - \frac{x^2}{5 - \frac{x^2}{7 - \frac{x^2}{\cdots}}}}} \quad (4.42)$$

where $W(x)$ denotes the Lambert W function. In the literature, the first two kinds of expansions are respectively referred to as *infinite exponentials* (cf. [2]), and *nested radicals* (cf. [4]). The third type of expansion is again a *continued fraction*, but different from Example 1.6, now including a variable x . For arbitrary analytic functions, the approximation provided by this ES corresponds with the so-called *C-fraction* for a given analytic function, or even formal power series (cf. [12, 2.4]). This particular identity in (4.42) belongs to the class of *Gauss's continued fractions*, and is more specifically called *Lambert's continued fraction* (cf. [23, 91.7]).

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Index

Approximation system, 34

Coefficient, 6

code, 6

map, 6

space, 5

Element

convergent (object), 7

neutral, 5

order, 10

space, 5

Expansion, 6

Expansion system, 5

accurate, 14

convergent (property), 14

divergent, 14

embedding, 27

homomorphism, 27

isomorphism, 27

monotonic, 20

proper, 7

separating, 17

strictly increasing, 20

Map

closed at a point, 19

monotonic, 20

Order

densely ordered, 20

dictionary order, 20

Projection, 6

Topology

generated, 14

open interval, 20

open ray, 20

order topology, 20

weak, 14

weakly discrete, 14

Symbols

\hat{C} , 6

\hat{c} , 6

\mathcal{C} , 14

$\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{D}^*$, 14

E, E_i, P, P_i, F, F_i , 5

\hat{E}_i, \hat{P}_i , 6

ν_i , 5

$\pi_n^{-1}(B_0, \dots, B_{n-1})$, 15

$\hat{P}^{-1}(B_0, \dots, B_{n-1})$, 15

$\hat{P}^{-1}(\mathcal{C})$, 14

Ψ , 5

S, S_i, C, C_i , 5

$S_0^{(n)}, S_0^{(\leq n)}, S_0^{(<\infty)}$, 7

$S_0^{[n]}, S_0^{[\leq n]}, S_0^{[<\infty]}, S_0^{[\infty]}$, 10

y, y_i, c, c_i , 6

$y^{[n]}, y_i^{[n]}$, 6

$y^{[\Psi, n]}, y_i^{[\Psi, n]}$, 7

$y^{[\infty]}$, 14